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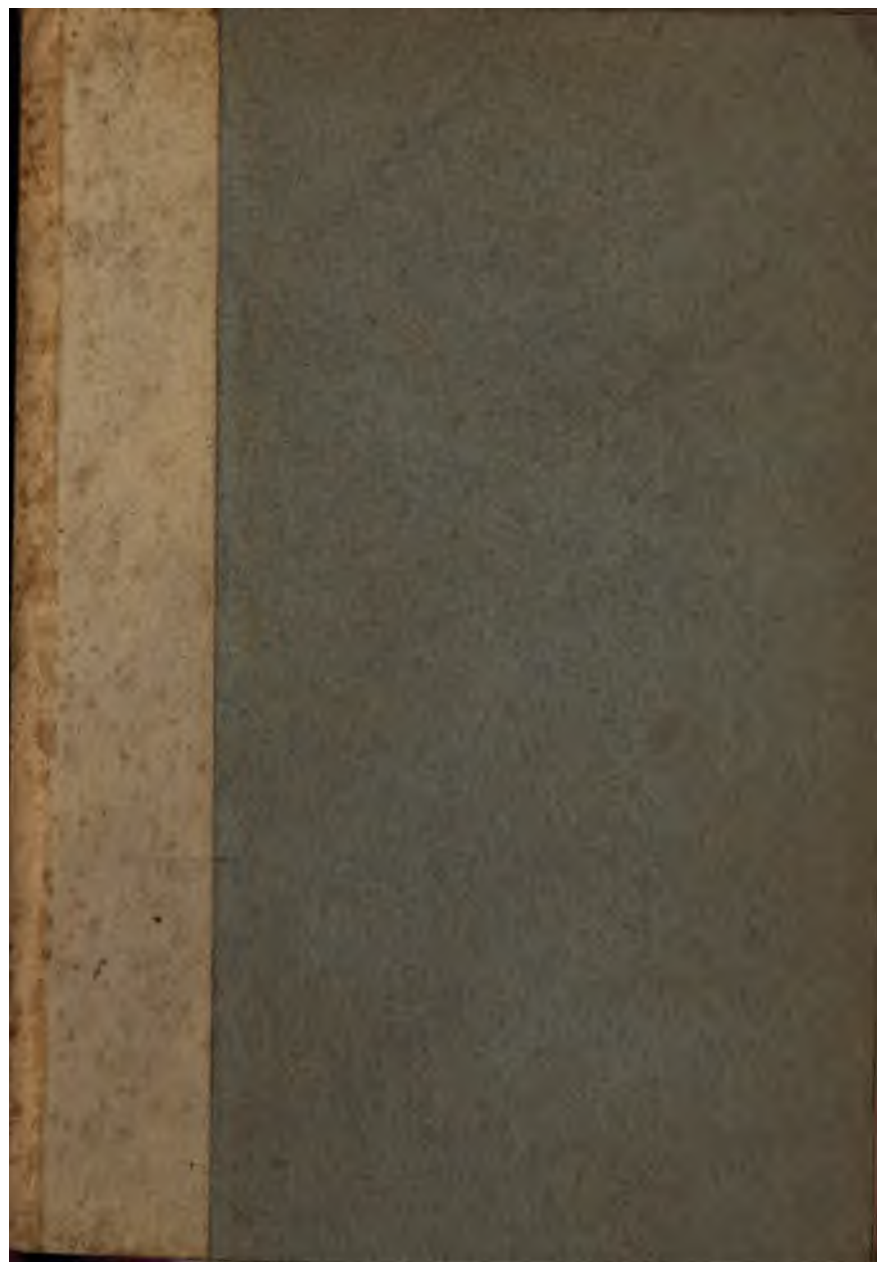
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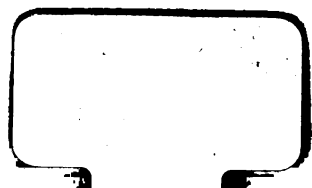
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SHERIFF BARCLAY:

NARRATIVE OF HIS PUBLIC LIFE.

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EDINBURGH:

J. MENZIES & CO., PUBLISHERS.

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1884.

PRICE SIXPENCE.

*The following notes on the life and work of Sheriff Barclay, which originally appeared in the "Perthshire Advertiser," of 1st inst., have been issued in this form to give them more general circulation.*

*Perth, Feby. 11th, 1884.*

# DEATH

OF

## SHERIFF BARCLAY.

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*From "Perthshire Advertiser," February 1st, 1884.*

WE regret to announce that Sheriff Barclay died this morning at his residence, Early Bank, Craigie, after a short illness, being only confined to the house since Saturday last. On that day he made several calls in the city, but since then he became seriously ill, and day by day grew weaker, till he quietly breathed his last at ten minutes to seven o'clock this morning.

Hugh Barclay, the youngest of four sons of John Barclay, a merchant in Glasgow, was born in Dunlop Street in that city on the 18th January 1799. He was baptised in the Old Gorbals Kirk in Buchan Street, of which Mr James M'Lean, afterwards Dr M'Lean, was minister. Soon after the birth of Hugh, his father removed to a tenement in Glassford Street, erected by Mr Horn, an eminent builder, who opened the street in 1792; and here Sheriff Barclay spent his early years. His earliest recollection, he tells us in his "Rambling Recollections of Old Glasgow," was being led through the crowds from Jamaica Street, then the extreme limit of Glasgow, to the Cross, on the occasion of the illumination of the city in honour of Nelson's victory at Trafalgar in 1805; and he was wont to recall with pleasure the many devices that he saw on that occasion. Soon after this event he was removed to the North, where he stayed



for some months. In his "Rambling Recollections" he says, "It is but as yesterday that on a fine spring morning I was led from the foot of Glassford Street, with fear and trembling, by the hand of an elder brother, and enrolled a scholar in the English School of Mr Angus," which was kept on the first floor of a tenement in Wilson Street. Having from sickness been again sent to the North, his education was for a short time interrupted; but on his return he was transferred to a school in Turner's Court, off Argyle Street, which was kept by a Mr Waddell. On passing through Mr Waddell's English classes he was transferred to the Latin School, taught in the same Court, by Mr Shirran, whom he describes as an admirable teacher. The classes were small but select, and the youthful Hugh, we are assured, distinguished himself by his application and proficiency. By those who knew him, his conduct at home is described as that of a quiet and studious youth. He was fonder of a book than of the amusements more to the taste of the majority of lads, and gave all his spare time to reading and the improvement of his mind. Of a happy and cheerful disposition, it was the boast of his parents that he never gave them any trouble—that he was always obedient, kindhearted, and obliging. He was enrolled a student of the University of Glasgow in 1811, the Principal of which, at the time, was Dr Taylor of the High Church. In his "Rambling Recollections" the Sheriff furnishes a graphic picture of the University during his terms of attendance at its classes. He attended the humanity classes of Professor Wm. Richardson, and latterly those of his successor, Mr Walker, who had been Collector of Customs at Perth, and was appointed to the chair through the influence, it was said, of the Duke of Athole. Albeit his antecedent, Mr Walker was an excellent teacher. The Greek classes were taught by Professor Young, and the Logic by Professor Jardine; all of which the Sheriff attended—the latter, however,

in the character of a citizen student, as apparently he had by this time commenced his apprenticeship with Mr Baillie. When he entered the University his father had removed his residence to York Street, and in the work already referred to the Sheriff has left us a picture of himself in those early student days. He says: "When, leaving the dingy courts of the University, dignified by the effigy of Zachary Boyd in his cage, and two colossal lions on the grand staircase leading to the Faculty Hall, he (the Sheriff) wended his way along College Street, then through Inkle Factory Lane, where stood the old Church of Dr Dick before it was appropriated by the earliest Mechanics' Institute in Great Britain. Passing over the then quiet quarters of George Street and Square—being provided with a season ticket—he entered the grounds of Willowbank, and amidst sylvan walks reached the top of York Street. Where now stand the busy marts of industry and the mansions of merchant princes, there were then rustic arbours where the pilgrim could rest." Provided with a book from the College Library, his walk was leisurely trod, and he looked back on having derived no little information and mental improvement on these solitary walks and rests by the way over Blythswood Hill and Holm or Haugh. While attending the University classes he was a constant attender of a famous Debating Society called the University Forum, and which was also largely attended by citizens as well as students. In this connection it may also be stated that after he had entered on his professional career he was an attender of the meetings of the Literary and Commercial Society—a Society which was originated within the college walls and whose membership was limited to the professions of the city. At its meetings it was customary to read papers on topics of interest; and among those contributed by Mr Barclay were one on "Duelling" and another on "The Authenticity of Ossian's

Poems." The latter was delivered on many occasions subsequently to various literary societies. Another society of which he was a member was the "Speculative," the ticket of admission to which was designed in most artistic style by Mr Brown, who afterwards became drawing master in Perth Academy. Among its members were Mr Sheridan Knowles, the actor, who had recently come to Glasgow and started an elocution class; and Mr Peter M'Kenzie, the famous "Radical" and historian of Glasgow.

From the University Mr Barclay proceeded to the office of Mr George Baillie, who was then practising as a writer—(the term in vogue till spoken pleadings superseded written)—in Glasgow. He was appointed Sheriff of Dunblane in 1825, and was succeeded in that post by Sheriff Barclay. We may here mention that Mr Baillie, who, perhaps more than any man, moulded the character of Sheriff Barclay, and developed and strengthened the tastes and aspirations that were latent in him, ultimately became senior member of the Faculty of Procurators of Glasgow, and at his death in 1863 left a sum of £18,000 to the Dean and Council of the Faculty of Procurators, for the endowment and maintenance of an institution, to be called Baillie's Institution. This munificent bequest will become available this year, and in the first instance will be applied "to aid the self-culture of the operative classes from youth to manhood and old age, by furnishing them with warm, well-lighted, and comfortable accommodation at all seasons for reading useful and interesting books, in apartments of proper size, attached to one or more free libraries provided for them;" and, in the second instance, for providing the education and industrial training of children of the same class gratuitously, or on the payment of small fees. The Sheriff has himself related the circumstances under which he entered Mr Baillie's office and the profession of the law at the same time. His own inclination was to enter the Church; but a circumstance, trivial in itself, gave his career

a totally different current, and, as he himself often said, fated that in his case the Law should supersede the Gospel. But though not destined to serve the Church in the way his youthful ambition prompted, he never lost his predilection for its work or his taste for theological studies. And in this connection it may be said that his attainments in theology and Biblical literature were such as would have at any time fitted him to discharge the duties of the pulpit as ably as he did those of the Bench. There was no work in which he engaged with more zest than religious teaching; and the circumstance that for more than sixty years he acted as a Sabbath School teacher, or conducted a Bible Class, indicates quite as plainly the love he had for the work itself as the strength of the Christian motive which animated him in it. Another instance of that strong affection for Church service we will notice in its proper place. A man of strong religious convictions, he was inclined to look upon theological dogmas as having a strong personal interest. One did not require to hear him often to form the opinion that theological science was not with him speculative science; but was a strictly personal, practical concern. His sympathies went more with the school of the generation which the Moderatism of the close of the eighteenth century had for some time superseded; and in nothing more was this apparent than in the belief, to which he sometimes gave expression incidentally, that an overruling Providence shapes all the circumstances of one's life for wise and holy ends. It was in this spirit he viewed the circumstances that led to his adoption of—or rather his drifting into—the profession of the Law, and led him to regard the service which he was privileged to bestow upon his generation as the object for which he had been sent into the world. At least, it was in this spirit he spoke of the circumstance that sent him into Mr Baillie's office. Mr Baillie had applied to young Hugh's Sabbath School teacher for a douce, quiet lad to become his ap-

prentice ; and Hugh, being in possession of these qualifications, was recommended for the post, with the result that he went to Mr Baillie's office, where he served the statutory apprenticeship of five years with so much satisfaction to his worthy employer, that the foundation of a mutual friendship was laid which remained unbroken till Mr Baillie's death. While in Mr Baillie's office he did not sever his connection with the University. Besides attending the law classes, he took the benefit of the prelections of the Professors of Logic and Political Economy. In 1817 he attended Professor Rennie's course of Lectures on English Composition ; and in 1819 he attended a class of elocution which had been opened by Sheridan Knowles. Dr Andrew Cre, who disputed with Dr Birkbeck the honour of being the founder of Mechanics' Institutes, was at this time lecturing on scientific subjects at the Andersonian Institution (an Institution for which the Sheriff possessed a life-member's ticket), and on his lectures the Sheriff was a constant attender for many years. He also attended lectures delivered in the Athenæum Hall by Dr Mackenzie, a celebrated oculist, on Popular Anatomy. From all this it will be seen that the Sheriff's training was of the most varied character — classics, law, and science were all eagerly pursued. On completing his apprenticeship Mr Barclay went to Edinburgh, where he acted as Parliament House Clerk to a Writer to the Signet, and amassed a fresh store of legal experience. While in Edinburgh he continued his legal studies at the University, and there, as at Glasgow, he was eminently distinguished by his talents and proficiency. Having passed his examination with honour, he was admitted in 1821 into the Glasgow Faculty of Procurators. He practised for some time on his own account, and ultimately became junior partner in the firm of Russell & Barclay, writers, Glasgow, continuing in this capacity till he was appointed to the post of Sheriff-Substitute at Dunblane in 1829.

The eight years he spent in Glasgow after passing his examination were characterised by all the activity with which his name has been associated in Perth. While attending conscientiously to his duties as a solicitor, he found time to engage in every Christian and good work—mission work during the week, which Dr Chalmers was showing the necessity of and had made popular, and Sabbath School teaching on the Sabbaths, being the directions in which his energies went forth. He was elected a deacon in the church of St George's-in-the-Fields, a church which had been recently erected, and performed with zeal all the work falling to be done by office-bearers of a church opened up in a new locality. In connection with his mission labours he, along with Mr James Watson, ultimately Lord Provost and honoured with knighthood, opened a chapel for seamen, whose spiritual interests did not receive the attention in the beginning of the century they do now. From what has been said of Mr Baillie, it will be evident that he took a deep interest in the improvement—intellectual, social, and moral—of the operative classes, as working men were then called. Into the Sheriff he doubtless infused some of his spirit; but the connection of the Sheriff with the Andersonian Institution and Dr Andrew Ure led more immediately to the practical realisation of his desire to benefit the working classes. The predecessor of Dr Ure in the Andersonian was Dr Birkbeck, the founder of the London Mechanics' Institute, and whose memory is kept green by the circumstance that several institutions of a similar kind have been designated after him. He was appointed Professor of Natural Philosophy in the Andersonian in 1799. In his teaching he felt the want of suitable apparatus, and as there was no philosophical instrument maker in Glasgow, he resolved to apply to those operatives whom he deemed most qualified to make the apparatus of which he stood in need. In this manner he

came in contact with the operatives of Glasgow, and in his frequent intercourse with them he had occasion to mark the eager desire which they manifested to be initiated into science; while no institution furnished them with the means of so doing. Dr Birkbeck, referring to the circumstance, expressed himself thus :—"I beheld in these unwashed artificers, the evident sign of the sacred flame of science. I could not refrain from asking myself 'Why should poverty prevent these minds from acquiring that knowledge of which they are so eagerly in quest? Why should that poverty close to them the avenue of science? I found it impossible not to remove the obstacle, and I determined upon proposing to give them a gratuitous course of Natural Philosophy." The proposal was looked upon by the most learned of the day as the dream of a youthful enthusiast; but the project when carried out proved, eminently successful. The lectures were continued with great success on the Saturday evenings by his successor, Dr Ure, and in connection with them a large library was formed. In 1821 a movement was made to present Dr Birkbeck with an address and his portrait. The members of the Saturday Evening Class, or Mechanics' Class, as it was called, desired a recognition of their *status* as an independent body, and that the library should be declared the property of the mechanics. This led to a controversy somewhat acrimonious, in which it was contended by one party that the origin of mechanics' classes belonged to Dr Anderson, and not to Dr Birkbeck; and eventually to a disruption in 1822 of the parent Institution, and the formation of the Mechanics' Institute, the first of its kind in the kingdom. Lord Brougham took considerable interest in the origin of the Institute, and Dr Birkbeck gave a loan of money for its formation; and among the donors to its library was Dr Chalmers, who presented to it a superbly bound volume of his astronomi-

cal discourses. It was the parent of the present Glasgow College of Science and Arts, at which instruction is given in such sciences as have an immediate application to the practical arts, and the preparation of students for passing the examinations of the Departments of Science and Art, and of the City and Guilds of the London Institute. Into the work of this pioneer in the cause of scientific education for artisans, and among these "unwashed artificers," showing "signs of the sacred flame of science," Sheriff Barclay threw his energies. Mr James Watson, already referred to as associated with the Sheriff, was president of the directors in 1824; and after him Mr Barclay was elected to the office and held it for several years. In connection with the events of this period, we may mention that the Sheriff was a member of a Volunteer corps. The first regiment of Volunteers had been disbanded on the conclusion of the peace of Amiens in 1802, but with the breaking out of the war in the following year, the Volunteer regiments were again embodied, to be disbanded in 1815. During the Radical disturbances of 1819 a body of Rifles was raised, and continued to exist till 1824. During the political agitation of the time, the Rifles, who had their head-quarters in the church Mr Barclay attended, performed considerable service, both by night and day. It was during this period the Sheriff donned the patriotic garb—the headpiece of which he was wont to exhibit to the Perthshire Militia, on the occasions when he lectured to them—as a relic of his old campaigning days. It may be added that this was not his last connection with the military. In November, 1859, the 8th (Crieff) Company of Perthshire Volunteers was formed, and in May following sworn in by the Sheriff, when he was elected an honorary member. Among the events he has thought worthy to chronicle as having been present at was the debate at the meeting of Glasgow Synod with reference to the disputed settlement of Dr MacFarlane, a



minister of the High Church. The Presbytery had refused to induct, and the case was appealed to the Synod. Among the speakers was Mr M'Neill, from whom he received the appointment to the Sheriffdom of Perthshire. The Synod affirmed the action of the Presbytery; but on an appeal to the Assembly the decisions were reversed, and the Presbytery ordered to proceed with the induction. During his connection with the firm of Russell & Barclay he became acquainted with Mr Home Drummond, the member for Stirlingshire, and grandfather of Colonel Moray, and with whose name several important legislative measures are associated. To him the Sheriff rendered some services. At his jubilee celebration in 1879 he said :—" I got into correspondence with Mr Home Drummond, and he found me of some benefit. He put into my hands his first Small Debt Act and his Public-Houses Act, and I may plead guilty that I was the unfortunate draughtsman of these Acts. . . . My going to Dunblane came about in this way. Mr Drummond, when he heard that the office had become vacant, applied to Lord Colonsay (then Sheriff M'Neill of Perthshire) through Mr Readdie, whom Lord Brougham called the Lord Chancellor of Scotland. He wrote recommending me very highly, and I got the commission without being asked to go to Dunblane." He was introduced to the Dunblane bar in November 1829. During the time he was at Dunblane he discharged the duties of the Sheriff of Stirling, who was laid aside by illness. Sheriff Husband, who had discharged the duties of Substitute in Perth from 1811, in a manner which won for him the respect of all parties, died, and Mr Barclay was selected his successor, from a number of distinguished candidates, by Sheriff M'Neill, afterwards Lord Colonsay. The late P. R. Drummond, in his notice of James Murray Paton, in his "Perthshire in Bygone Days," has the following reference to Sheriff Barclay's advent into the Fair City :—" Early in 1833 I came from Glasgow to Perth in the

mail coach. At Dunblane a gentleman joined us who seemed, at first, rather lively, and raised in us a hope that the latter half of the journey would not prove quite so dull as the first had been; but we had scarcely rattled off the causeway of Dunblane, when he drew from a receptacle a thick roll of foolscap, covered with writing, and from that roll of paper he seldom lifted his head until we rattled on to the pavement of Perth." That was the advent of Sheriff Barclay. It was not early, but late, in the year when the Sheriff rattled into Perth; but as Mr Drummond, when he recalled the circumstance, was looking back through a vista of forty-five years, the discrepancy can be accounted for. On Wednesday the 25th November, Mr Barclay presented his commission to the Perth Bar-Sheriff M'Neill was not present on the occasion, but the duty of introducing him to the Bar was performed by Mr James M. Paton, Sheriff Clerk. Having taken his seat, he shortly addressed the members of the Court, alluding in feeling and eloquent terms to the loss the profession and the public had sustained in the death of his distinguished predecessor, and assuring them that it would be his ambition to imitate Mr Husband's virtues. It fell to the lot of Mr Thomas Duncan, the Vice-President of the Society of Procurators, to acknowledge the Sheriff's address. The *Perthshire Advertiser* of that date, in noticing the appointment of Mr Barclay, said that it had met with the most perfect satisfaction on the part of the public, and added that "his great and deserved reputation as a lawyer, and the suavity of his manners in private life, are ample guarantees that the duties of his office will be discharged in a way this county has a right to expect"—words that half a century of devoted service in his profession and in every good work has more than fulfilled. During his four years' service at Dunblane, Mr Barclay had gathered round him a host of friends; and it was only natural that the public satisfaction at his promotion, and

the wish that such occasions always present as opportunities for showing appreciation, should have found expression in tangible form. Accordingly on the 16th December, he was entertained to a public dinner in Kinross's Hotel by the gentlemen of the western district of the county. Mr James Smith of Deanston occupied the chair, and Mr M'Ara, Sheriff-Clerk, Dunblane, and Mr Bain, solicitor, acted as croupiers. At that time the ability of Sheriff Barclay was as much recognised as at any subsequent period of his career. Mr Smith, in proposing the toast of his health, remarked that he did not require to debate on Mr Barclay's eminent qualities as a judge. "As a judge he was learned in the law, acute and diligent in investigation, patient in hearing, of imperturbable temper, and impartial in judgment."

Sheriff Barclay had no sooner settled down in Perth than he resumed the same activity of his Glasgow life, and at once entered on that career of public usefulness for which he has been distinguished in Perth, no less than by his legal work. The period, as we have seen, was a stirring one in every department of life—intellectual, political, and social. The Reform Bill had just been passed; and it is remarkable that most of the different institutions for improving society and ameliorating the condition of the poor and unfortunate have had their beginning since then. To the general prosperity that has attended commercial and industrial pursuits much of that care and solicitude on the part of the public for the unfortunate has been owing; but the general upheaval during the Reform agitation was a social as well as a political revolution. At the time the Sheriff came to Perth the excitement had subsided, but the movements of thought that were partly the cause and partly the effect of the political ferment, remained, and spread, and insensibly led to that progress which marks the difference between the society of to-day and that of fifty years ago. In all the movements since

then Sheriff Barclay was a powerful factor—instituting, strengthening, guiding, and directing. Into every scheme of moral, social, and intellectual reform he threw himself with ardour. With little sympathy with the influence of what the politician calls political privileges, he believed that the condition of the great mass of the people, if it could be permanently elevated at all, would be by a general diffusion of knowledge. His sympathies, as we have seen, had always been with the young and the operative classes, and in their behalf especially he interested himself. In this direction, at the particular time he came to Perth, there was much encouragement. Literature was appealing through *Chambers' Journal* to a new and larger constituency, and science was holding forth its inducements to the young artisan. It was the Renaissance of the nineteenth century among the common people, and Sheriff Barclay was in complete sympathy with it, and in Perth directed and developed it in no small measure, by lecturing, advice, and otherwise. In these labours he was seconded in no small measure by his brother-in-law, Dr Miller, Rector of Perth Academy, who had recently come from St Andrews. The Rector lectured on chemistry and natural philosophy; and reading clubs were instituted. In his own special department also Sheriff Barclay worked. The law apprentices in Perth always had a large share of his attention, and for several years he regularly lectured to them in the mornings before office hours in the various branches of the law. Among these students we may mention one, the present Lord Fraser, who has confessed the obligation he was under to the information he then received and the influence and kindly advice of the lecturer. In this connection we may mention that in July 1842, Dr Miller was presented with a testimonial by the working-classes of Perth, at which Sheriff Barclay was present, and received the thanks of the public for the great assistance he had

given to the lectures, and to the city generally. In all the schemes that afterwards were set on foot for the intellectual improvement of the city he was an active promoter. He was present at the opening of Sharp's Institution in 1860; and always took an interest in its progress. He was Chairman of the Committee of Science and Art; a life trustee of the Seymour Munro Free School. He was on the Council of Management of the Literary and Antiquarian Society; and his last publication, "Perthiana," recently issued, is the substance of a lecture he delivered before the members of that Society last year. In this connection reference may be made to his willing service as a lecturer to Literary and Young Men's Associations. In these lectures his grand object was to combine solid information with the amusing and humorous. Gifted with a pleasant vein of humour and a keen sense of the ludicrous — these with his varied experiences and retentive memory made him the most pleasant of platform lecturers and speakers. So rich were his stores of anecdote, gathered in the experience of a public life extending considerably over the half century, that ever and anon in the course of his lectures a sentence would remind him of another "curious" or "remarkable" incident which he would proceed to tell with an exquisite humour. Often it was at much personal inconvenience these lectures were delivered. They were on a variety of topics—"Mind and Matter;" "Signs and Signboards;" "Curiosities of Phrenology" (of which there were two); "The Poems of Osian;" "Science and Scripture;" "Scottish Customs and Legal Antiquities." His manner was taking, and his delivery effective, rising to bursts of real eloquence. Not less strong was his interest in the religious training of the young. As a Sabbath School teacher we suppose his case is one unique in their annals—so far as length of service

is concerned. For over 60 years he had discharged that work, and to the last he loved the Sabbath School. In his labours of love in connection with religious teaching he gave lectures for two consecutive seasons, 1857 and 1858, on the literature of the Bible, the antiquities and Natural History of Palestine, making Horne's "Introduction to the Bible" the basis of his lectures. The course was delivered in the Baptist Chapel and was well attended; and, indeed, at the present day we know that some pulpits are occupied by ministers whose thoughts were first turned to the ministry by these lectures.

Always a lover of the Church of Scotland, he was an active helper in all its schemes and work. For a long series of years he was appointed a Commissioner from the Presbytery of Perth to meetings of the General Assembly. In these meetings he took infinite pleasure; and the way in which he describes in his "Reminiscences" the great debate on Pluralities in the celebrated case of Dr M'Farlane of Glasgow, shows the zest with which he entered into all the discussions. In the debates he took a prominent part, and his advice and counsel were always acceptable. In the discussions on Patronage he took a prominent part, and the substance of the speeches he then delivered he published under the title of "Patronage and Popular Rights." An incident that may be mentioned in connection with his Church politics was a discussion he had with the late Dr Marshall of Coupar-Angus on the Voluntary controversy. This great controversy was keenly taken up by two of the Perth ministers, Dr Eadale, on behalf of the Established Church, and Dr Young, of the North U.P. Church, on behalf of the Voluntaries. In recognition of his defence of the Kirk, Dr Eadale was entertained to a public dinner in Perth on the 18th July, 1834. Provost Pringle occupied the chair, and Sheriff Barclay was croupier. In proposing the toast of "The Church of Scotland," the Sheriff gave expression to some

sentiments that raised the ire of the controversial Voluntary of Coupar-Angus, and a paper war, through the columns of the *Perthshire Advertiser*, was carried on for some time. This was the only public controversy in which the Sheriff ever was engaged.

But in work of a social kind he, from almost the time of his coming to Perth, took quite a prominent position. Indeed, his name is connected with the formation of almost all the charitable, benevolent, and social institutions our city possesses, with every one of which, up till the time of his death, he was so much identified as an earnest worker for their success, that their history and his life are intimately connected. The first of these that enlisted his sympathies and service, and to which he rendered yeoman service, was the County and City Infirmary, an institution that sprung out of what was known as the Perth Dispensary. The Dispensary had proved so useful that there was a general desire to extend its operations, and a handsome donation, supplemented with the promise of a large subscription fund—the Marquis of Breadalbane giving £1000—resulted in the resolution to build the present handsome structure that stands on the Glasgow Road. In 1836 the foundation stone was laid, and about two years afterwards the building was opened. Sheriff Barclay, who all along had taken a prominent part in the movement for getting up the new building, drew up the constitution and rules of the Institution, a service which was publicly acknowledged at the first annual meeting, and for which he received the warm thanks of his coadjutors. He was elected a Director of the Institution, was made Chairman of the House Committee, a position he held for several years; and it would appear that during the early years of the history of the house he compiled the annual reports of the directorate. As a director he was a constant attender of the committee meetings till the last, and his ripe experience was appreciated and acted upon in all the

efforts for the success of the Institution. With the Reformatory and Industrial School movement he had great sympathy; and so far as the principle of these Institutions have been adopted in Perth, Sheriff Barclay was of great service. As a practical method for diminishing the mass of criminality he thoroughly believed in the Industrial School movement; and with its pioneer, Sheriff Watson of Aberdeen, he was in entire sympathy. His experience of the criminal classes led him to the conviction that if anything was to be done for the reclamation of the criminal classes the effort must be directed towards the young. That was a point he always kept in view, and to which he directed his own efforts. In his capacity as Chairman of the Visiting Committee of the County Prison, he spared no efforts to wean the young from the paths of crime, by advice, by religious instruction, and the reading of the Bible to them. In this connection he was in the habit of telling an anecdote illustrative of the ignorance of the youthful criminal. To one of that class he had read the story of Joseph and his brethren. The sharpwitted youth admitted that the story was very good, but he had heard better, and asked his Lordship to "turn up to the one about Rob R. y," who apparently was the youth's *beau ideal* of manly excellence. In pleading the cause of Industrial Schools he was accustomed to refer to the revolution that had been effected in the criminal wards of the General Prison since their adoption became general. While at one time—till systematic effort was made to deal with criminal youth in a rational way—the accommodation at the General Prison had failed to meet the demands made upon it; but after the time had passed during which it was natural to conclude that the Reformatories and Industrial Schools had exerted the influence anticipated at their institution, so little call was made on the accommodation of these wards that they had to be diverted to other uses.



In connection with the working of Reformatories there was one thing he regretted, the fact that a youth had to graduate as a criminal before he was eligible for the benefits of their training. With these views, then, it was natural that he should have taken a deep interest in the management of the Boys' School of Industry; and in its latter development, so familiar to the present public of Perth, the Fechney Boys' Institution. The Boys' School of Industry—the pioneer of the Fechney—was opened in 1842, and with its management Sheriff Barclay was associated as one of the Directors, a position he has all along held in its new development. In the management he bore an excellent part, and its annual reunions were constantly presided over by him. Scattered all over the country—indeed, all over the world—are boys who have had their training at that Institution, and who retain happy memories of the counsel, the instruction, the inimitable humour of Sheriff Barclay, and the influence that his personality, and the beauty of his Christian character left upon them. The success with which the institution of the Boys' School of Industry was attended induced the benevolent ladies of Perthshire to attempt providing a similar institution for girls; but an unfortunate controversy, arising out of the struggle that terminated in the Disruption, led to the movement being abandoned for some time. A question arose as to which denomination the girls should attend on the Sabbath day. The majority of the ladies who had joined in forming the Refuge had connected themselves with the Free Church, and as they insisted on the girls attending that denomination, the Established Church section withdrew their countenance, thus causing some little delay in the starting of the Institution. But with the decline of the intense sectarian feeling caused by the differences that culminated in the Disruption, a better spirit returned. It was seen that benevolence could rise superior to sectarian differences; and at that time Sheriff

Barclay identified himself with the Institution, and commenced a connection which remained unbroken till his death. At the annual reunions and the annual business meetings he was always present, and discharged the duties of Chairman or moved a resolution with all his characteristic felicity of matter and style, and intermixing all with his sage advice. With the management of another Institution—the County and City Savings Bank—started about this time for the encouragement of thrifty habits in the industrial classes, he was all along connected in some form or other. This Institution, if we may so call it, was opened in 1839, Sheriff Barclay, along with Mr Melville Jameson, who still discharges the duties of the office of secretary, to which he was then elected, being among its chief promoters. Since then the Sheriff was a regular attender of the annual meetings, and always took a great interest in the management of the Bank. The next important Institution with which we find his name connected by way of being one of its original founders is the Public Baths and Washhouse. This Institution was inaugurated by a public meeting in the City Hall, presided over by Lord Provost Sidey, on the 13th March, 1845, on which occasion Sheriff Barclay moved one of the resolutions; and since then he has been more or less associated in the management. The other Institutions in the management of which he took a prominent part were the Model Lodging House, in the starting of which he was largely instrumental; the Perth City Mission, the presidency of which he held for many years; the Soup Kitchen, of which he was one of the Committee; the Indigent Old Men's Society, of which he was President, and whose members he regularly addressed at the meetings on the New Year occasions. On the passing of the first Water Act for the city he was appointed an ex-officio Commissioner. He was a director of Murray's Royal Asylum, and fulfilled the duties of the office with painstaking zeal. He also bore a part in the formation

of the Society for Improving the Condition of the Poor, and continued to aid it up to the last. He was also an active worker in connection with the City Mission and the Perth Tract Society, and a pretty constant visitor, more especially in connection with his Church work, in the homes of the poor.

In this connection it may not be inappropriate to make a brief reference to his appearances in connection with the various social reunions in the city. None of these were complete without him. At every festival he had his seat on the platform, and to the last his addresses were ever welcome, full of racy anecdote, humour, and sound advice as they always were. The number of addresses he has delivered, the speeches he has made, the lectures he has delivered in Perth and all over the county are simply legion, and impossible to chronicle in any sketch of the present limited nature. But among the various reunions he was in the habit of attending may be mentioned those in connection with the employees of the Scottish Central Railway—(now absorbed into the Caledonian system)—a class of the community for whom he had always a strong affection, the outcome, no doubt, of the relations and associations formed in the days when he came in contact with Dr Birkbeck's "unwashed operatives." From the first his relations to the employees of the Scottish Central Railway were of the closest and pleasantest kind. The opening of that undertaking gave an impetus to the trade of Perth, and contributed largely to raising the status of working-men generally, and as such its servants called forth his sympathies. In their social welfare he took a deep interest, and at all their reunions he was the most welcome speaker. At the first reunion the Glasgow employees held the Sheriff presided, on which occasion the famed comic singer, the late Harry Clifton, displayed his improvisatory talents in composing a few verses on the Sheriff, the burden of which was a hope that the Sheriff

would deal leniently with him should he have the misfortune to appear before him at any time when fulfilling an engagement at Perth, to which the Sheriff, with his usual ready-wit replied, that for the entertainment he had afforded, he would have pleasure in extending to him the leniency of the Court.

On the 17th April, 1855, the University of Aberdeen conferred on the Sheriff the well merited honour of the degree of LL.D., in recognition of his eminent services to law-literature, as the author of the "Digest of the Law of Scotland," and other well-known law treatises. It is worthy of note that at the same time the same honour was conferred on the Rev. James Wylie, the well-known author of the "History of Protestantism" and other works. And this brings us to notice the contributions of the Sheriff to literature, and the calls that were made by the Legislature upon his experience. In 1843 the Commission, upon the recommendations of whose report the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1845 was framed, was appointed to inquire into the Poor Law system of Scotland. Sheriff Barclay was examined before this Commission, and gave valuable evidence based upon his experience as Judge and as Chairman of the Vagrancy Committee in connection with the city of Perth. While on this subject, it may be said that in the question of Poor Law Reform he took a keen interest. That he was not altogether satisfied with the Act of 1845 he occasionally hinted in an indirect way. At anyrate, there is nothing to be regretted more than the change the Act has imperceptibly effected in the fibre of the Scottish character so far as that traditional element of independence was concerned; and he was wont to lament the circumstance of which he was often impressed by many Poor Law cases that came before him, that one effect of the Act had been to efface the obligation of the law of nature, that it was the duty of children to support their aged parents, and preserve

them from the cold charity of the workhouse. In 1869 he was appointed one of the members of the Commission constituted to inquire into the Courts of Law in Scotland, of which his old Sheriff, from whom he had received his appointment to Perth—Lord Colonsay—was the chairman. On the 22nd March 1869 the House of Commons was induced, on the motion of Mr E. H. J. Crawford, M.P. for the Ayr Burghs, to appoint a Select Committee to inquire into the operation of the Poor Law in Scotland, and before this Committee Sheriff Barclay was also examined. He also gave evidence before the Committee appointed to inquire into the Licensing Laws in 1863; and before the Select Committee of the House of Lords in 1878. He was examined before the Committee on the Game Laws, which led to the transfer of the jurisdiction in poaching cases from the Justices of the Peace to the Sheriff. As a member of the Social Science Congress, he read some valuable contributions on crime and Industrial Schools and Reformatories. Considering how fully his time was occupied with the large legal business of so important a centre as Perth, and the large demands made on his leisure by those social, benevolent, and religious institutions with which he was connected, one would think that whatever might be his literary tastes and aspirations he would have little opportunity of indulging them. Yet the writings he has left would more than make the reputation, so far as industry is concerned, of a study-confined litterateur. With his pen his activity was unceasing. His notes on cases that came before him would fill many volumes; and some of them would bear reproduction, apart from their legal and personal interest, on account of the information they give on institutions, customs, or other topics of general and ordinary interest raised incidentally by the facts and circumstances of the cases themselves. Taken from first to last, a history of Scottish Law might be compiled from them, while the information they give

upon Scottish customs and history is of an original character. His law treatises are in high repute. "The Digest of the Law of Scotland for Justices of the Peace" has passed through four editions, and has been of invaluable service in the administration of the law to country justices and other untrained administrators entrusted with its administration. The "Law of Highways" was published in 1850, and passed into a fourth edition in 1863. His "Law of Fugæ Warrants" passed into a second edition in 1832. He published "Hints to Legal Students" which went into a second edition in 1856. In 1858 he published his work on "Parole Proof;" in 1860 "Local Courts of England and Scotland;" in 1862 "Administration of the Criminal Law in Scotland;" in 1863 "Curiosities of Legislation;" in 1864 "Curiosities of the Game Laws;" in 1866 "The Civil Law of the Sabbath;" in 1875 "The Law and Practice of England and Scotland in Cases of Affiliation;" in 1878 "Judicial Procedure in the Church Courts." In 1848 he issued an important contribution regarding juvenile crimes in his "Juvenile Delinquency: its Cause and Cure." He edited editions of the Public House Statutes and the Friendly Societies Act of 1875, to which he contributed introductions and notes. The latter work was dedicated to his old Sheriff, the Right Hon. Strathearn Gordon, at the time of the publication Lord Advocate of Scotland, and latterly raised to the Supreme Appellate Court as Lord Gordon. In addition to these works, all of them valuable contributions on the subjects on which they treat, he published several works of more general interest. Chief among these are his "Rambling Recollections of Old Glasgow," originally contributed to the *Glasgow Herald*; "The Curiosities of Phrenology"—a science the general principles of which he accepted—published in 1846; "The Sinaitic Inscriptions" in 1866; "Patronage and Popular Rights" in 1857; "Notes on the Psalm Book" in 1878. For the old parochial system of education he had a strong affection—indeed, it

is questionable whether he took kindly to all the details of the present—and at the request of the Educational Institute of Perthshire he read, on the 12th June, 1880, a paper on “The History of Schools in Scotland,” which was published in November of the same year. In addition to all this he contributed largely to the “Journal of Jurisprudence,” the “Poor Law Magazine,” the *Glasgow Herald*, under the *nom de plume* of Nestor, and the literary columns of the *Perthshire Advertiser*. Much of his work done for the *Herald* related to legal topics, and among the last articles that appeared in its columns from his pen were a series, embracing careful and elaborate summary of the last published Blue Books, relating to the statistics of criminal and legal business in Scotland.

In all that he did, Sheriff Barclay earned the respect and deep affection of the legal profession and the community generally. With respect to those with whom he was more immediately concerned, we cannot do better in showing the relationship that subsisted between Bench and Bar, than quote the remarks made by Mr Alexander Graham, Crieff, the President of the Society of Solicitors, on the occasion of the Sheriff's retirement. He said:—In the legal world he forms a connecting link, and a link of no mean order, between the commencement and the close of the present century. He is a man of no mere parochial reputation, but known as a judge and a great social reformer throughout broad Scotland. He has added lustre and importance to our provincial Court, which might not otherwise have been a mark of particular observation to the public. As a judge Dr Barclay was a man of most extensive legal knowledge, perfected by long study, and vast experience. He possessed a very acute intellect, great patience, and an almost superhuman activity and industry—qualities pre-eminently suited to make an accomplished judge. It is well known that Dr Barclay has been one of the most

eminent County Court Judges in Scotland, and his decisions have stood the test of the review of the Supreme Court probably better than those of any other Sheriff Substitute in Scotland. His extraordinary energy and industry enabled him not only to overtake his actual professional duties, but to devote a considerable portion of his life to the literature of the profession. With regard to Dr Barclay's relations to the Bar, it was impossible to speak of these without emotion. Dr Barclay had been pleased to say that the Bar had ever treated him with respect and courtesy, but the members of the Bar could say, with perfect truth, that he had treated the Bar, not only with kindness and courtesy, but with the indulgence of a father. He was quite sure that no member of the Bar ever intentionally hurt Dr Barclay's feelings. They loved him too much for that; but it is just possible, that in the heat of debate, some words might escape, not particularly pleasing to his feelings and sensitive nature, but spoken to be instantly regretted. Dr Barclay in his relations to the Bar was a man of extraordinary patience, he seemed to be incapable of losing his temper, and he (the President) although he had now had the honour of practising at the local Bar for the last 25 years, could safely say he had never seen a frown of anger on Dr Barclay's face. Some people had said that if Dr Barclay had kept a "tighter rein" over the Bar it would have saved himself much worry and annoyance, and have promoted the despatch of the business of the Court. Well, as far as the despatch of business was concerned, litigants and the public could not complain, as Dr Barclay was capable of doing, and did, the work of any two ordinary men, and there were no arrears in his Court. So far as saving himself from worry and annoyance is concerned, that was Dr Barclay's personal concern. He was a man of a large and loving heart, with the tenderness of a woman, and it was utterly impossible for him to inflict even a momentary



pain by reproof. Taking him all in all, I fear "we never shall look upon his like again."

In November, 1858, Mr Spottiswoode presented Sheriff Barclay with a new gown in the name and presence of the members of the Bar. In 1868 the respect of the public was shown in substantial form. In 1867 a meeting of a few friends was held, when it was resolved that it was desirable that the long and unwearied services of Sheriff Barclay should be recognised. A committee was formed, with ex-Bailie M'Neill as treasurer. Money flowed in from all parts of Scotland for a testimonial to the Sheriff. It was agreed to present Mrs Barclay with a purse of sovereigns, and the Sheriff with his portrait and a piece of silver plate. J. M. Barclay was commissioned to paint the portrait; and on Tuesday, 22nd December, 1868, the presentation, consisting of the portrait, which now hangs in the City Hall, a service of plate, and a purse of 500 sovereigns, was made in the City Hall in the presence of a large assemblage, presided over by Lord Kinnaird. On the occasion of completing his jubilee of service he was entertained to a public dinner in the County Hall, at which Lord Adam presided. On the anniversary of his golden wedding, in 1876, Sheriff Barclay and his partner in life were presented with a congratulatory address by the members of the West Church congregation. The occasion was also taken advantage of by the children attending the Sabbath School, and the members of the Sheriff's Bible Class, to present him with a Family Bible. The Rev. Dr Milne, who made the presentation in name of the donors, referred in congratulatory terms to the great service which Sheriff Barclay had rendered in promoting the religious instruction of the youth of the West Church congregation.

In the course of last summer, through failing health, the Sheriff felt constrained to resign his official connection with the Bar. That resignation took effect from

the 1st October, the fifty-fourth anniversary of his elevation to the bench. In bidding farewell to the legal profession in Perth and Perthshire, he, in the course of a letter addressed to Mr Graham, President of the Society of Solicitors, thus referred to his public career :—" Of the eight or ten members of the Bar whom I left at Dunblane, only one now survives. Of about fifty practitioners whom I found on my removal to Perth in 1833 only two of their number have their names on the Court Roll, but both have ceased to practice. The fourth Sheriff Clerk, since my first appointment, is now in office, and the third Procurator-Fiscal now conducts the criminal business. It is with much pleasure that I record that the utmost harmony has ever existed between myself and the Clerks and Fiscals during my incumbency. I have made 49 estimates of the values of each successive grain crop of Perthshire—technically called 'Striking the fars'—commencing in February 1834. I have taken considerable trouble in this, and made improvements in the mode of correct ascertainment of the prices. I have found sixteen Lord Advocates, and four of these were Sheriffs of Perthshire since my first appointment. I have known 14 successive Lord Provosts of Perth, and it is gratifying to say that the most perfect harmony and co-operation has existed (as it ought ever to exist) between all the officials of the municipality and the authorities of the county. Since 1838 there have been attached to the Perth Court 22 Small Debt Circuits, which have afforded me the pleasure of cultivating friendships in remote districts of the county. I have lived during the reigns of four sovereigns, and had the honour, on 14th June, 1837, of proclaiming, at the Cross of Perth, the ascension of Her Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria, since which I have been rarely absent, while she passed through Perth, to and from her Highland home. I have taken part in six

decennial Government enumerations of the people, the first being in 1831. I have taken part in twenty County Parliamentary elections, and in sixteen for the Burgh of Perth. In the year 1876, because of sickness of the principal Sheriff (Mr Tait), both elections fell on me as "Returning Officer." These elections were keenly contested, but pleasantly carried through and concluded. Although it may appear somewhat foreign to my subject, I may mention that all the ministers of religion whom I found in office, at the date of my appointment, are now dead, and I have known their pulpits more than once filled with their successors. With all these gentlemen, without distinction of creed or sect, I have had much pleasant intercourse, and obtained from them considerable assistance in cases of destitution, neglected children, and domestic discord."

True to his resolve, Sheriff Barclay continued in harness till the close of his life. His last public appearance was at the great Band of Hope demonstration in the City Hall on the 18th inst., when he delivered an address to the hundreds of young people assembled, on the evils of intemperance. No doubt his fervid appeal will be long remembered by his youthful audience. That same evening he also distributed the prizes to the successful students attending the science and art classes in Perth, and formally opened the new laboratory which has been erected at the Perth Academy for the benefit of science students. On that occasion he also delivered a pithy address on the importance of science and art studies.

The deceased is survived by Mrs Barclay, two sons, and a daughter.

# PUBLIC REFERENCES TO SHERIFF BARCLAY.

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## PERTH TOWN COUNCIL.

On Saturday a special meeting of Perth Town Council was held—Lord Provost Martin in the chair.

The Lord Provost said that the Town Council had been called together in consequence of the death of their distinguished townsman, Sheriff Barclay. His death was a personal loss to almost every citizen. Dr Barclay, although long past the four score years, up to the very close of his life took a very lively interest in everything connected with the city's good. Only a fortnight ago he presided over a meeting, and distributed the prizes awarded by the South Kensington authorities to the science and art students at the classes here. That was his last public appearance. Called more than half-a-century ago to fill the responsible position of Sheriff-Substitute of Perthshire, he discharged the onerous duties connected with that office with great tact, energy, and zeal. As a citizen he took a very prominent part in promoting and aiding every philanthropic and benevolent enterprise, and his counsels were of great

assistance as well as his ready help. He thought that the Council would only be doing its duty in adopting the following motion, which he begged to propose:—"That the Council express their deep sympathy with the widow and family of the deceased in their great bereavement, and that they should mark their esteem for the deceased by offering to his relatives to attend the funeral in their official capacity, and further that the Clerk be instructed to forward a copy of this minute to his relatives."

Baillie Whittet seconded; and the motion was unanimously adopted.

#### PERTH EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE.

At the monthly meeting of this body, which was held on Saturday in the Burgh Court Room, there was a large attendance of members. After the reading of the minutes, the president, Mr Nish, Kilspeindie, moved that it should be remitted to the Committee to draw up a minute expressing the great regret of the Association at the death of Sheriff Barclay. The Sheriff had been a zealous labourer in the cause of education and a warm friend of the teaching profession. He was honorary president of the Perthshire Association of Schoolmasters before it became merged in the Educational Institute, and at the last Synodical meeting of teachers held in Perth he read an able and interesting paper entitled "A Sketch of the History of Schools in Scotland." The high estimation in which he held the work of the teacher was admirably shown by the motto from the Talmud which he prefixed to that paper "The world is preserved by the breath of the children in the schools." In his death they had to deplore the loss of one who had striven earnestly to forward the cause of education by deed and voice and pen. The motion was unanimously agreed to.

## COUNTY AND CITY OF PERTH INFIRMARY.

At the annual meeting on Monday, 4th February, Mr Smythe of Methven, said—He could not find words strong enough to express the deep regret which they must all feel at the loss of their dear friend, Dr Barclay, who for so many years—for well-nigh half-a-century—had been interested in the Institution—from its commencement up to the present time. He did feel that they had sustained a very great and a very grievous loss in the death of Sheriff Barclay. (Applause.)

Mr Coates, Pitcullen House, speaking at the Perth cabmen's supper on Saturday evening, said—They missed one dear old face to-night—one whom they had been in the habit of seeing for many a year, and who occupied the same position last year which he (Mr Coates) had the honour of occupying that night—that of their revered friend, Dr Barclay. Not only they but the people of Perth mourned his loss. He believed that no one who ever lived in Perth had performed longer public duties or done these in a more unselfish manner. Everything which Sheriff Barclay did was for the benefit of his fellow creature, without any selfish end; and for the good he had done during his life no one would ever occupy a higher place in the estimation of the citizens of Perth. It was very sad to think that they would not again listen to his interesting addresses, so full of instruction and ready wit.

Mr Robert Pullar of Tayside, said—They especially missed one from their gathering that night whom they would all have been pleased to see present, and who, a fortnight ago, had the full expectation to be present; but it had been otherwise ordained. He referred to their dear old friend Sheriff Barclay, whose work was now done on earth. They must all highly

respect and esteem his memory for the great interest he took in everything which concerned the good of the inhabitants or the welfare of the city. Dr Barclay was well worthy of all the praise which could be—or had been—bestowed upon him, as, during his long and active life, he had used his influence for the good of his fellow-men.

Ex-Bailie M'Neill also referred to the interesting address which Dr Barclay had given the cabmen last year on the history of conveyances—from the old sedan-chair to "noddies." Dr Barclay, he said, had spent his life in going about doing good. He was always ready to give assistance in some case of benevolence. Often, after a hard day's work on the bench, he would go to some village to deliver a lecture; and his lectures were always so interesting. Up to the very last he went about doing good, and to him the words of the hymn were most appropriate:—

"Servant of Christ, well done,  
Rest from thy loved employ—  
Life's battle o'er, the victory won  
Enter thy Master's joy."

#### A LIFE TO IMITATE.

On Sunday, 3rd inst., the Rev. A. Fleming, St Paul's Church, Perth, at the close of a most impressive discourse, based on the words in Psalms xxiii. 4, said—I have been led into this train of observation this forenoon in consequence of the great loss this city and county have sustained through the removal from amongst us, on the morning of Friday last, of one of our oldest, most eminent, and most respected citizens. For the last 50 years Sheriff Barclay has occupied a very prominent position. He was, in every sense of the term, a leading man—leading not only from his having been, during that time, the principal legal and judicial functionary in the city and county, but

leading in the sense of having taken a foremost position in every movement calculated to promote the social, intellectual, moral, and religious well being of the community. This is neither the time nor the place for speaking in regard to the laborious, faithful, and able manner in which he discharged his important and honourable duties as a judge. Giving his judgments as he did, after patient and exhaustive deliberation, after having carefully weighed all the statements advanced by contending parties, and after having applied his great forensic talents and intelligence to the solution of the points in dispute, his decisions were generally regarded as final, and even when appealed from were seldom reversed. These judicial functions he discharged on the bench in such a manner as to secure for him not only the confidence, but the respect and esteem of every member of the Bar. Our departed friend, however, was better known to the community at large as the philanthropist—as the benefactor of the poor and aged—as the friend of the widow and fatherless. In the neglected classes he took a special interest. Among the wasteful, the improvident, the intemperate, the immoral, and the irreligious, he endeavoured to create a desire for thrift, economy, temperance, the practice of virtue, and the cultivation of godliness. He was the devoted Christian teacher—striving in season and out of season to deliver the neglected portion of the rising generation from those habits of vice, which, uncared for, they could scarcely fail to contract—to rescue them from their wretched homes, and to bring them under the sanctifying and uplifting influences of the Gospel. Many a man and woman now living in this city and elsewhere in comfort, happiness, the practice of virtue, and the fear of God, owe their present position to the philanthropic and disinterested exertions of our departed brother. There is not a charitable and benevolent institution in our city—not an association for the elevation and improvement of the working classes, not a school or



seminary for the training and education of the young, and particularly for the secular and religious instruction of the children of the poor—but which might always calculate upon his powerful, suitable, and eloquent advocacy. While many men in his position spend their evenings and leisure hours in company, or in occupations and recreations which minister to their own gratification and enjoyment, it was his delight to occupy these hours in exertions for the good of his fellow-creatures. All his fragments of time were scrupulously utilized for these objects; and through this consecration of himself to benevolent and Christian work, and through his indomitable energy, he was able to accomplish an amount of good which I am safe to say has never been exceeded or even equalled by any Christian worker amongst us. This truly Christian work was not with him a thing of yesterday. He commenced it in Glasgow as a young man, and he remained in the zealous discharge of it till his dying day. For though, through the advice of his medical attendants, he was reluctantly compelled to resign his professional duties, nothing could induce him to relinquish his Christian work. During the last months and days of his life, and with a burden of years considerably above the fourscore, he abounded in works of benevolence and charity. Of the Church of Scotland he was an ardent friend and a zealous office-bearer. For a long period of years also he was deservedly regarded as one of the leaders in our Supreme Ecclesiastical Court. A year or two before my settlement among you as your minister he was a member and an elder of this Church, and took a prominent part in the management of all its affairs. He was also the teacher of the most advanced class in the Sabbath School and, I have no doubt, there are many whom I now address who feel that they owe to his unwearied efforts the acquirement of the principal part of their religious knowledge. Our departed brother, however, though an attached friend of the Church of Scotland, was no sectarian or

bigot. He rejoiced in the prosperity of other denominations, and he could heartily give expression to the sentiment "Grace be to all those who love the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity and truth." I might say much more, but addressing as I do those who know his worth and excellence as well as myself, I feel that it is unnecessary for me to enlarge. He will be greatly missed by all the supporters of our benevolent institutions. He will also be greatly missed by the friends of the Church of Scotland, for he was specially interested in all that concerned the welfare of our Church which he deeply loved—in the maintenance of her principles, in the soundness of her doctrine, and in the purity of her worship. His removal is an irreparable loss to the community. His death has caused a blank which cannot be easily filled. In the midst of our mourning let us rejoice that the Head ever liveth, "Jesus, the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever;" and let us plead with Him to raise up others to take the places of those whom He has taken home to Himself—

"Lives of great men all remind us  
We can make our lives sublime,  
And departing leave behind us  
Footprints on the sands of time.  
Footprints that perhaps another,  
Sailing o'er life's solemn main,  
A forlorn and shipwrecked brother,  
Seeing shall take heart again.  
Let us then be up and doing,  
With a heart for any fate;  
Still achieving, still pursuing,  
Learn to labour and to wait."

#### HIS CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY.

On Sunday, 3rd inst., the Rev. A. Sutherland, York Place U.P. Church, at the close of a sermon based on the words in 1st Cor. xv. 5-8, said—Two days ago there passed away from the number of the living in our city a man of whom it might be truly said, without any dis-

paragon to others, that he was the most familiarly known and most highly and universally esteemed citizen of Perth in this generation. Everybody knew and respected Sheriff Barclay. I suppose there is scarcely a house in Perth, great or small, in which Sheriff Barclay's name will not have been mentioned with respect and regret within the last two days. There is not a pulpit in our city in which, because of his most catholic spirit, reference to his death might not be most appropriately made; and there are few, probably, in which some reference will not be made. There seems to be a somewhat special call for such a reference in this church, where the Fechny School boys, in whom he ever showed so warm and wise an interest, have long worshipped. I have been speaking to you of Christian work, and of incitements and encouragements to persevere in it, and I think that no subject could be more appropriate at the close of that long and most active and complete life: for he was a workman in the highest and best sense of the word—conscientious, painstaking, and persevering to the very last. It does not lie, of course, in my way to speak of the work which he did in his secular calling, though that furnishes to all the young a fine example of activity and conscientious thoroughness of “redeeming the time,” and of the respect and rewards which such work brings. It rather falls to me to speak of the philanthropic work in which he took so hearty an interest, and of which he did so much. A Sabbath school teacher for about 60 years, a director, wise counsellor, and active helper in every charitable work in our city, he might well be called the Lord Shaftesbury of Perth. He took the liveliest interest in the Fechny School from its origin till the very last week of his life, and was ever ready with his help and counsel in the great and good work carried on in it. Let me remind you, boys, that it is less than four weeks since you heard him wishing you a very happy

New Year, and repeating what he never failed to impress upon you, that, to be truly happy, you must be holy—that holiness and happiness go always together. And surely his own life was a beautiful illustration of this truth. Sheriff Barclay was a friend to very many in our city—always so frank, so kindly, so considerate, and so interested in the good of others; but to none was he more a friend than to the boys of the Fechney School and to their managers and teachers. You, boys, have never had on earth a more sincere friend. He often taught you the way of life; he always led you in it. His Christian teaching and his Christian example are something to remember, and to be thankful for. And, now he is gone, we shall look on his benevolent face and listen to his cheerful happy voice no more on earth. But being dead he yet speaketh—to you, boys, especially. When at any time, either while you are in the School or after you have left it, you are tempted, as you will be, to neglect your proper work, or to do it in a slovenly way; or, when you are tempted in any other thing, to sin against God, the remembrance of Sheriff Barclay's interest in you, his earnest appeals to you, and the example of his godly life, ought to be a check to you. And, when you are striving to do your work faithfully, and to walk in the ways of God, the thought of what he was and of what we believe he now is, may well be a great encouragement to you. His life and his death say to you all, "Be ye followers of me, as I also am of Christ." "We desire that every one of you do show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end; that ye be not slothful, but followers of them who, through faith and patience, inherit the promises." It is good for us all in this city to have had, for more than half a century, among us a man who, in these days when thought and faith appear so often in conflict, was both a man of intellect and great learning, and also of humble Christian

faith. It is good for us in these days of secular activity to have had so long among us a man who, without any neglect or abatement of secular industry, could find so much time for all kinds of Christian activity, "not slothful in business, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord." Long shall his name be held in veneration and affection. "The memory of the just is blessed."

#### AN EXAMPLE TO THE YOUNG.

The Rev. D. D. Bannerman of St Leonard's Free Church, Perth, preached to the young on the 3rd inst. from Isaiah lv. 6, "Seek ye the Lord while He may be found; call ye upon Him while He is near." At the close he made the following reference to the late Dr Barclay. All of you young people know that a good man has been taken home last week. I mean Sheriff Barclay. He was an old man, for he was born in the last year of last century. He had seen his eighty-fifth birthday on the 18th of January this year. Almost every one of you knew him by sight. You were used to see him going across the South Inch morning by morning to his room in the County Buildings, and coming back in the afternoon. You do not know how much good he did in that long life, and how hard he worked at so many things. But the very youngest here could see how happy he was and how kind he looked, and how much he liked to make others happy, especially children. Just last Friday fortnight he came to the platform of the City Hall at the great Band of Hope meeting. Many of you saw him there. He asked me how many children were in the hall. I said that I thought there were at least 1600 or 1700. He was so surprised and pleased at there being so many, and said a few kind words to the boys and girls about the terrible harm that drink does among us, and how good it was that children and young people should think about it early and resolve to have nothing to do

with it. That was Sheriff Barclay's last appearance in public; and those were his last words to the boys and girls of Perth. I trust they will be long remembered. God says to us in His Word that we "Should not be slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises." Now, there are three things in which I want all the children here to follow that good servant of God who has been taken home last week. (1.) Seek the Saviour early. That is what the text bids you do; and that is what he did. There is reason to believe that he had come to the Saviour when very young. That was why he had so much brightness and happiness in his Christian life. Would you not wish to be as happy as he was, if you are spared to live long too, and to do as much good? Then see that you begin at the right beginning as he did. (2.) "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might. Do it heartily as unto the Lord." Some 73 years ago a man of business in Glasgow came to a Sabbath School teacher and asked him if he could recommend a steady, diligent lad to be an apprentice in his office. "Yes," the teacher said, "there is one in my class that I am quite sure of, and that is little Hugh Barclay." Mr Baillie took him at once, and that was the beginning of his rise in life. The diligent Sabbath School pupil was a diligent Sabbath School teacher himself afterwards. For more than 60 years Sheriff Barclay taught regularly either in a Sabbath School or a Bible Class. That was the secret of his being able to do so much in so many fields. He was never idle; and whatsoever his hand found to do, he did it heartily as unto the Lord. See that you all follow him in that. (3.) "Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in Him and He shall bring it to pass." Sheriff Barclay always remembered what the Bible teaches so plainly, that God's hand is in everything, that He rules over all things, and that, for those who love and trust in Him, He makes all things to work

together for good. That helped very much to make him so peaceful and contented about everything, never getting angry because things did not go just in his way. He was sure God would make them all work together for the best. Be sure you remember that too. God kept His word to His faithful servant. He fulfilled the promises to him in which he trusted. Sheriff Barclay had a long, useful, honoured life. And now he has died in a good old age, gathered in by God's hand like a sheaf of corn fully ripe. He had very little suffering, and was not a week ill. He has fallen asleep in Jesus. "Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord. They rest from their labours, and their works do follow them."

#### A LOVER OF THE OLD PATHS.

The Rev. R. Morton, Original Secession Church, Perth, preaching from Job iii. 17-19, on Sunday, the 3rd inst., said—May not these thoughts suggested by this passage derive peculiar force from the dealings of the Lord among us? Death has been coming into our midst as a congregation and as a community with startling suddenness. I can hardly conclude to-day without saying a few words about the venerable Sheriff, who, during the past week, has somewhat suddenly received the call which, we have no doubt, was to him the call "Come up hither." It is a high tribute to pay to any person at his death to say of him that every philanthropic, charitable, and Christian institution will sorely miss him, and few have so richly deserved this tribute as Sheriff Barclay. His well-known figure and voice will be missed at the annual gatherings in connection with all these institutions. There has been no movement in our midst which has had for its end the advancement of men's temporal and spiritual welfare in which he was not found taking a prominent part. Along with the burden of his official duties, which for more than

half-a-century he discharged so ably and faithfully, he was always found willing to co-operate in every good work. His interest in the young, and his skill in imparting Bible knowledge to them, formed one special pleasing feature of his character. Many of you will remember his forcible words at our last annual social meeting commending the work of our Sabbath School teachers, and his interesting remarks with which he engaged the attention of the young. His zeal in Sabbath School work was not of yesterday, and was maintained in freshness and strength to the very end. While catholic in his sympathies he was personally a lover of the old paths. He was a warm upholder of the sanctity of the Sabbath and a keen advocate for a national recognition of religion. He was a constant and appreciative reader of our magazine, as well as an occasional contributor, as he was the warm friend of its first editor, my venerable predecessor. He will long be remembered as an able judge, a skilful writer, a warm hearted philanthropist, an earnest Sabbath School teacher, a warm friend, and, behind all and above all, an earnest, exemplary Christian. It was a common saying with him of late, when inquiry was made about his health, that his physician had told him that the sword was too keen for its scabbard, which he added just meant that the spirit was willing but the flesh was weak. Now the willing spirit had been freed from the encumbering flesh, and has entered that sphere where the service of Christ which he so dearly loved is engaged in without fatigue or weariness.

#### HONOURING HIS POSITION IN LIFE.

The Rev. James Gibson, Free West Church, Perth, preaching, on the 3rd inst., on the words (Matthew xxi., 28), "Son, go work to-day in my vineyard," said—I cannot pass from this subject without referring to a loss of a more prominent kind just sustained by our whole community. The late Sheriff Barclay belonged rather to



all the Churches than to one. To mention the good work with which he was identified during a life quite phenomenal in duration and active usefulness, would be to enumerate every religious and benevolent agency or institution among us; and hence the whole Christian community joins in lamenting his loss. Speaking this day with special reference to young men, let me ask them to consider what it is that makes people truly mourn the death of those who are taken away, whether in their prime or after attaining to a patriarchal age. It is the fact that they have lived not for themselves but for their fellows—not to man but to God. "Them that honour Me," H. says, "I will honour." But before a higher Tribunal than man's

"Honour and shame from no condition rise;  
Act well your part—there all the honour lies—"

Yes, act it well, "as ever in the great Taskmaster's eye," "doing all in the name of the Lord Jesus," and as His servants and sons; and according to the principles and not the accidents of life will be pronounced the "Well done, good and faithful servant," &c.

#### A LIFE CONSECRATED TO GOD.

In the Middle Parish Church, Perth, on Sunday, 10th inst. the Rev. Mr. Stevenson took for his text the words in Job v. 26, "Thou shalt come to thy grave in a full age, like as a shock of corn cometh in in his season." At the conclusion of an impressive discourse he made the following remarks, bearing alike on the life and death of Sheriff Barclay:—

How beautiful to us all is o'd age, when a life of usefulness in the cause of man and God lies behind it! There is the gentleness of the child without the marks of a froward and wilful temper!—there is the love of what is good and true without the shadow of a longing for the

pleasures of sin, or the deceitful riches of life!—there is the catholic breadth of sentiment, that seeks to find good under all forms of opinion and behind the words of every Creed and Confession!—there is an absence of that vain and foolish speculation about spiritual mysteries, that leads so many of the young and ardent into sorrow and difficulty!—there is that sorrow for the erring, and solicitude for the distressed, that tell us of a self that has been truly crucified with Christ!—and there is the patient and quiet resignation of spirit, that speaks of a life hid with Christ in God, and of a heart filled with “The peace which passeth all understanding!” Beautiful indeed is old age under such conditions, resting from labour and waiting for the dawn of a new day when immortal youth, graced with the intelligence of a higher sphere, shall light from heaven upon the brow! Beautiful is it also, when the young men of a second, or the children of a third, generation delight to gather round the old man to listen to his words of wisdom, and of profoundest experience, or to bless him for what he has done, seeking their temporal and spiritual good! And when such a man passes away from the scene of his labours, when he has come in a full age to the grave, “like as a shock of corn cometh in in his season,” how refreshing to us, in this waste of selfishness, to hear him spoken of as one who by his personal efforts did much to ameliorate the condition of his fellow-men—to aid the poor and sorrowful and to advance the interests of the Kingdom of God! Truly, then, we recognise the truth of the words, “A good name is better than precious ointment, and the day of one’s death than the day of one’s birth.” To have lived is to have been conscious of the sweets of existence—of the glory and beauty of this great and marvellous world of ours—and life is worth living for that, if for nothing else; but to have lived so as to feel that, in living, you have fulfilled a great and good purpose—that you have not merely fed at the tables of

life, but have been useful in the service of man and God—that there are those in the world who have been blessed by your existence, whose sorrows you have soothed, whose burdens you have lightened, and whose spirits you have inspired with hope to bear and suffer for the glory of the future—to feel that you have lived thus, adding something to the wisdom of the ages, something to the nobleness of human example, and something to the good that is in store for the children of a more glorious age than this—to feel thus is to be crowned in time with the glory of an immortal life. One who lived thus has lately passed from our midst, come to his grave in “a full age, like as a shock of corn cometh in in his season;” and, while we feel sorrow at the loss of one so good and useful, we, at the same time, have reason to rejoice that it was our privilege, for a time, to know something of a man whose actions were ever pure and transparent, and to feel some touch of his spirit that seemed ever to be in full harmony with the spirit of Christ. A life like his seems to us like a holy vision come from God to raise our low desires and aims, and to inspire us with faith in man, as well as in the hope that is set before him. Of him surely now—if of any—it can be said that he has “fought a good fight,” that he has “kept the faith,” and that now he is wearing the crown of glory, laid up for those who love the appearing of Christ. May it be yours, my brethren, to follow in his footsteps, even as he followed in the footsteps of his Saviour, that you may, if God spare you, see an age as honoured as his; and, like him, “come to your grave in a full age, like as a shock of corn cometh in in his season.”

#### INFLUENCE AS A SABBATH SCHOOL TEACHER.

On Sunday, 10th inst., the local members of the Society of Solicitors attended Divine service in the East Parish Church, Perth. The Rev. W. G. H. Car-

michael, pastor of the congregation, conducted the service, and, at the close of an eloquent discourse, said—

My Brethren—Some of you to-day attend this Church in an official capacity, recognising the loss of one who occupied a prominent position in our midst—the late Sheriff Barclay. My acquaintance with him would not entitle me to enlarge on the merits which were the characteristic features of his disposition. That duty will be performed by one whose intimacy and knowledge give the right to speak. But even imperfect knowledge could not fail to seize some good trait which deserves the force of emphasis. God gave to him the great faculty of diligence, and he used it well. May we learn to take advantage of any talent vouchsafed to us, as he did that which was bestowed upon him, in a great measure; and though my acquaintance with Sheriff Barclay was scanty, I can honestly bear testimony to the good he did in directing many young lives in righteousness. You remember that his influence as a Sunday School teacher was in a very distinct sense for your good. To-day, met together for the worship of Almighty God, may we express our sincere sympathy with those who mourn him—with those by whom he was loved and whom he loved.

The psalms and hymns chosen were most appropriate to the occasion. The anthem, "Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord," was sung; and when the congregation was retiring Mr Chesterfield played "The Dead March" (in Saul) on the organ.

#### HIS CHRISTIAN USEFULNESS.

At the close of a discourse on Christian "Usefulness," on Sunday, 10th inst., the Rev. James Wilson, St Leonard's Parish Church, Perth, said—

In seeking to bring home to ourselves the lesson of this

afternoon, would it be easy for us to find a better illustration than in the long career of usefulness whose close we this day as a city mourn. At the age of 85, the good old man, "ripe and of full years, has been gathered to his fathers." Humbly walking in the footsteps of his Divine Master, he "went about doing good." Unweariedly and unceasingly he sought "to do good by stealth, and blushed to have it famed." The poor found in him a kind and considerate adviser, a sincere and warm friend. He was "abundant in labour," working "in season and out of season," and his many deeds of charity and piety will never be fully known. In many respects what was work to others was rest to him, because they were labours of love. The oldest Sabbath School teacher in Scotland, he never counted such duties irksome, but rather spoke of them with fondness as a sweet and enjoyable rest. His annual holiday was attending the General Assembly, and there his words of wisdom from the lips of experience, always commanded a most attentive hearing. As a judge history will always declare of his decisions that they were those of equity. In his addresses to the young he was often heard to say that he attributed his success in life to the fact that he never allowed the Sabbath day to be disturbed by thoughts about his everyday work; and that he thus felt himself equal in mind and body to any pressure of secular duties he was called to perform. But I fear, if our sainted friend were now to speak, his words would be those of rebuke. He would say, "Do not speak of my goodness, for I never had any I could call my own. Preach a faithful Gospel, warn the sinner to repent, proclaim the love of God." Regarding him the words might well be applied, "When the ear heard me, then it blessed me, and when the eye saw me, it gave witness unto me, because I delivered the poor that cried, and the fatherless, and him that had none to help." "The blessing of him that was ready to perish came upon me."

"He is gone to the grave, but we will not deplore him,  
 Though sorrow and darkness encompass the tomb;  
 His Saviour has passed through its portals before him,  
 And the lamp of His love was his light through the gloom."

#### THE ACTIVE CHRISTIAN PHILANTHROPIST.

In St Stephen's Parish Church, Perth, on Sunday, 10th inst., the Rev. Thomas Martin, at the close of a sermon on Numbers xxiv. 10, said—

However much we may differ in our estimate of the blessedness that attends the righteous man's life, we all agree in saying that it is blessed to die his death. We all believe that his death is a sleep in which no evil dreams will come, and that it will be well for us if, when the supreme moment arrives, we shall close our eyes in innocency, and enter the undiscovered country attended by the angel presence of conscious righteousness. And did not the desire of such a happy consummation arise within us, in spontaneous and fervid longing, a few days ago, when we were told that one whom we all loved and esteemed had suddenly been called away to his rest? Never, I believe, have the regretful sympathies of this city been more intensely stirred, or more widely awakened, than they were last week by the news of Sheriff Barclay's death. Never, perhaps, have so many of the members of this community claimed personal interest in a great grief that mourned the loss of one of their number. It was a sorrow partaken of not only by those who had been associated with him in his official sphere, or by those aged ones who had shared with him the vicissitudes of a very long life, but by all classes of the people. And, perhaps most significant of all, his death for a time cast a shadow over the faces of many little children, who felt that by it they had lost a friend. Of his life I need not speak to you; you are all familiar with its beautiful story. You knew him as the faithful judge of many

years—as the active Christian philanthropist—as the friend of every institution that aimed at the elevation of his fellow-men—as one whose genial presence always brought with it radiance and happiness. But is it not wrong of us to make mention of sorrow in regard to such a death? For his was not a useful career suddenly cut short amid the full riches of promise; his leaf did not perish in the green, nipped by an untimely frost. Was not his death, rather, like the fitting close of a year that had passed through its various seasons, and proved itself beautiful, and excellent, and becoming in each? And if we did not think of the bereaved relatives, and the deep sorrow that now reigns in their hearts and home, we should rejoice that he, after he had done, and done so well, all that Time could demand, was so quietly carried to the Eternal Rest, and that now we may hope that his “transplanted human worth will bloom to profit elsewhere.” Brethren, the last enemy can boast no victory over such a tomb. To such an one as our departed friend his end was truly a gain; and to us his removal is not altogether loss. Death has dimmed a friendly eye—it has hushed a voice that spoke many loving words—it has stilled the beating of a kindly human heart, but has it not also begotten a memory that will live long among us green and shedding a goodly fragrance, and given a united and inspiring voice to four-score nobly and well-lived years? There is indeed life in such a death—life for the departed in the blessed immortality whose gate it opens—and life for us in the rich legacy of lessons it bequeaths. As we joined in the solemn procession that, on Tuesday last, bore him to his place of rest—or watched it wending its mournful way through the silent crowds that lined the streets—or as we stood in that old Greyfriars Churchyard amid the tombs of our fathers, and listened to the children’s voices chanting, as he had wished, that beautiful 66th Paraphrase, were we not learning a

heavenly lesson? And as we thought of the long and honourable life to which all that was the touching close, did we not each of us devoutly breathe the prayer of the text, "Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his!"

"Oh! may we join the choir invisible  
Of those immortal dead who live again  
In lives made better by their presence. So  
To live is heaven."

#### HIS LOVE FOR CHILDREN.

On Sunday, 10th inst., the Rev. W. Dickie, Wilson U.P. Church, Perth, at the close of an impressive discourse on the death and burial of Jacob, said—

And see how men unite still in honouring the dead! Beautiful like the death of Jacob, and imposing in its solemnity like the patriarch's funeral, were the death and burial of one whom we may call the patriarch of our city. After a long life of marvellous activity; after years of patient continuance in well-doing, during which he performed the duties of the profession to which God had called him in the righteous dispensation of justice between man and man, and adorned his private character with many Christian graces, Sheriff Barclay was "gathered unto his people." He had many noble qualities, chief among which were his devotion to duty, his kindness of heart, his humour, his geniality, his readiness to serve in every good work. He was a consistent defender of a Church the principles of which we do not admire, but we love him all the more for his genuine love to the Church whose principles commended themselves to his judgment, and never interfered with his readiness to work, with true catholicity of spirit, side by side with every Christian worker in our city. In his latter years, in which alone we saw and knew him,



he reminded us of John, the beloved and aged apostle who, in his last years, repeated with pathetic frequency the dearest truth of his own life, "Little children, love one another," to the boys and girls of our city. That was a message which he often delivered. He being dead, yet speaketh, speaketh in the happy memory he has left behind him, and in the noble example and lovely and lovable character which he has bequeathed to the youth of our city.

# FUNERAL SERMON

BY

REV. DR. MILNE.

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ON Sunday, 10th inst., the Rev. Dr Milne, West Parish Church, Perth, preached, in presence of a large audience, a sermon on "The Death of the Aged," with special reference to the late Sheriff Barclay. The portions of Scripture read were most appropriate—Psalm ciii. and the first chapter of 1st Peter; whilst the psalms and hymns sung were befitting the solemn occasion. Taking as his text, Genesis xv. 15, "And thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace: thou shalt be buried in a good old age."

Rev. Dr Milne said—It is unnecessary, my friends, to say why your attention is, on the present occasion, directed to these words. There can be no difficulty in the reference and application of them. The promise contained in them has anew been fulfilled in the case of the good and venerable man, of whose life and death we have been led to think so much during the past week, who had so long gone in and out among us, and who has been borne to his grave in the fullness of his years, and amid such manifold tokens of genuine respect and regret. While sorrowing that we shall see his face and hear his voice no more, we recognise the Divine favour and loving kind-<sup>o</sup>

ness extended toward him—alike in his active career and in his calm and peaceful end. It is expected I know—and not unreasonably—that in what is said this morning notice should be taken of the work which, by the blessing of God, he was enabled to accomplish; and expression given to the sense of loss—of common bereavement—which his death has called forth. For such a funeral sermon no apology is needed. In sincere sympathy—amid whatever imperfections—one would endeavour to give utterance to the thoughts and feelings of many hearts; making only a word or two of general allusion to the declaration and promise of the text. The promise, you observe, is that of long life, quietly and gently ending. It is a promise made to one who was distinguished by faith in God—a faith full of obedience and service, and through whom others would be benefited, “a l families of the earth be blessed.” It is a renewal of what had shortly before been spoken for his support and encouragement, “Fear not, I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.” Whatever the perils and changes to which he might be exposed; whatever the trial of confidence to which he might be subjected, he would be preserved and upheld, kept in all his ways, made increasingly sensible of the Divine presence and guidance. The days of his years would be many; his age rich in experience of goodness and mercy; and death, when it overtook him, no destruction of his being, or cutting off of his expectation, but a peaceful going to his father—an entrance on the fuller life beyond. For we do not, it seems, oversrain such words as these, if we hold that they convey an intimation of future blessedness—of the better and larger hope since brought in. We may believe that it was given to one whose faith was so strong and unwavering, and concerning whom there was furnished the testimony, “Your father, Abraham, rejoiced to see my day; and he saw it, and was glad”—to look beyond

the frame and fashion of this world "for a city which hath foundations." What had thus been signified, and must have tended to keep the heart and mind of the patriarch, came to pass. No word of it failed. Life, for all the pain and perplexity by which it might be marked, continued to be a revelation and assurance of what had been spoken. And so we read again that "Abraham gave up the ghost, and died in a good old age, an old man, and full of years, and was gathered to his people." It is the memorial of him and of the Divine blessing upon him which the inspired writer delights to record.

And long life, especially if free from or knowing no more than the ordinary share of trouble, is, and always will be, regarded as yielding matter of thankfulness. It is what we crave and cry after. "What man is he that desireth life, and loveth many days that he may see good?"—something better than he has ever yet seen. Every one does in ordinary circumstances. It is the common instinct of our nature. It reveals itself among those who have been left to the darkness of their own hearts, and whose conceptions alike of the duties and enjoyments of existence have so often been mean and base. They may—as could hardly fail to happen—on reaching the evil days and the years void of pleasure, have described life as a toil, of which they had become weary—as a pain from which they longed to be delivered—or, at best, as a banquet, from which they wished to withdraw. Yet they bewailed, and, in their own sentimental fashion, endeavoured to account for the fate of those whose days of youth had been shortened, and on whom envious Death had prematurely laid his hand. The boon, after all, was theirs who became tranquilly old, and scarcely realised the passing of the silent years.

And Holy Scripture, while showing in what manner and spirit the time allotted to us should be spent, responds to this natural and common feeling. A promise like that

of the text, if not always, would often be made good in the case of those who feared the Lord, and walked before him in integrity of heart and in uprightness. With long life they would be satisfied. "Thou shalt come to thy grave in a full age, like as a shock of corn cometh in in his season." This was what might usually and fairly be expected, notwithstanding the misjudgments and mistakes to which the expectation occasionally gave rise. And prophets, in depicting the blissful and prosperous condition to be enjoyed by their countrymen, assign a notable and prominent place to those spending the evening of life in cheerfulness and contentment. "There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days." "There shall yet old men and old women dwell in the streets of Jerusalem, and every man with his staff in his hand, for very age." And such a blessing, in many instances bestowed, is in keeping with the gracious purpose and law of the Most High. We look that the life, well spent and well regulated, should be prolonged. There are frequent exceptions, no doubt. It often happens that those who have appeared to be under the influence of the best motives, and rendering valuable service, are taken away in the morning or midst of their days. Every family or friendly circle cherishes the memory of some one who was not spared to fulfil the promise he had given. The like tale is told in the graveyard, on the memorial tablet, or by the broken column. What had been hoped for has not been realised. One sees not the ripened fruit which had been expected on beholding the bud and blossom. We occasionally feel as if we knew not what to say to these things, though they are not without their meaning and instruction, and though there is never unrighteousness or unkindness with God. On the other hand, perplexity of another kind may be experienced in beholding the spectacle of a wicked man prolonging his life

in his wickedness—dead to every sense of duty and responsibility; or of one on whom sore affliction has been sent, and whose suffering suggests the old question, "Wherefore is light given to him that is in misery, and life unto the bitter in soul?" Yet still and often we perceive the blessing of the text to be enjoyed by those conspicuous for their work of faith and labour of love. Useful lives are spared. And we feel that there is a fitness in what is thus witnessed—in a good life being lived out, alike in the vigour and activity of manhood and the ripeness and repose of age—in patient continuance in well doing, receiving on earth this recompense of the reward. And, when the change—inevitable in every case—comes to one of such a spirit, and he goes the way whence he shall not return, we can regard it as but translation to "that happier sphere" in which abiding joy shall be reaped, and nobler service rendered. "Therefore are they before God in His presence." He in whom they have awhile trusted, at length seen and known. Once more, then, we may look on these words of promise as having been made good in the experience of him who has been lately taken from us—our lamented friend, Sheriff Barclay. A long life, measured by years, has been granted to him—and it has been a life of lofty purpose, ceaseless activity and zeal, in working what was good. Hence his name has come to honour, not only in our city and county, but throughout our country. Yet—as was most meet—by none has he been held in higher esteem than by us, his fellow citizens, who had the best opportunity of knowing what manner of man he was. He has been one with us, and has spent himself for us—has loved us as with the love of a friend and father. Therefore, the sadness and sorrow with which, in every house, the intimation of his death was received. Every heart was touched as by a sense of personal loss. It was felt that one had been taken who had been to us, and among us, what no one else in our day could be. It is

under this aspect—the aspect in which it will be chiefly remembered of those who have seen and known him—that his life may here be most appropriately referred to. There is no need to enter into any detail of the events and facts of his personal history, which have been recorded and made familiar to us by the public press. It would likewise be out of place and unbecoming in me to speak of the regard entertained for him by the profession to which he belonged, or of the manner in which he discharged the duties of the important and honourable office he so long held. Those most competent and qualified to do so, have borne testimony on that point; and you know what and how uniform their testimony has been. Nor do I allude, in more than a sentence or two, to what he was as an office-bearer and member of the Church of Scotland. He was warmly attached to that Church. For many years he had been a representative in her General Assemblies. He had shared the confidence and counsels of those by whom her public action was more particularly shaped. And, while he felt that her strength depended not on the outward advantages she might enjoy, or the mere numbers that might gather round her, but on her usefulness—on her being moved, as Dr James Robertson had so memorably expressed it, by the “Spirit of the living God”—he rejoiced in every sign and token that her advantages were being turned to proper account, and that she was awakening to an enlarged sense of her responsibilities. And how helpful he was in his own place as an office-bearer and member of the congregation! We, of this Kirk Session, can never forget how pleasant he has been to us; how much we have enjoyed his brotherly kindness; what benefit we have derived from his counsels—always given in such meekness and wisdom. And his work in the Sunday School—work in which he found such pleasure, and from which only a few months ago he was, through infirmity, compelled to

withdraw—was an example to all associated with him—an instruction at once to teachers and scholars. It has no doubt been productive among us—as like service rendered by him elsewhere must have been—of results which cannot be estimated. He had taken part in Sunday School teaching—service which there is often such a tendency among the better instructed and better to do members of congregations to avoid—from his youth up; he may be said to have continued in it steadfast unto the end.

Regarding him, however, in his relation to the general community, we obtain the fullest impression of what he was, and what he has accomplished. Only one possessing a rare combination of gifts and qualities could have gained the hold he gained and filled the place he filled; and in his case there *was* such a combination. Physically, if not the most robust of men, he was sound and healthy, active and energetic, movement being, in some respects, easy, labour light to him. He was endowed—it seemed in him to amount to a special endowment—with a remarkable power of redeeming the time, turning it to the proper use and account; and, while always busy, was never in a state of hurry or confusion. Quick of understanding, he rapidly perceived and got hold of what more slowly revealed itself to others. He was ready, felicitous, and often eloquent of speech, with the telling anecdote or illustration always at hand, to give point to what he said. Of abundant humour—it was a humour which rendered him the more lovable and attractive to those about him, and never by any possibility sought indulgence in what could cause to another discomfort or pain. Over and above all he was a man of genuine religious feeling and conviction. Of clear and practical rather than speculative turn of mind, he was not one to be carried about with every wind of doctrine, or to discover much interest in doubtful disputations. His faith



was in Christ as the Son of God, and Saviour of the world—the propitiation for our sins and the Word of Life; and it was a faith which, if tried, had also been confirmed. It had been the strength of his heart, as he encountered the cares and troubles from which no life is exempt; or seen the grave close over those dear to him; or had himself been visited by suffering and distress. While it was not his way or custom to enter into details of what are named “experiences”—while his life was rather, and rightly so, hid with Christ in God—he did not hesitate to declare, on proper occasions, what he believed, and had been taught—what had been rendered ever clearer and surer to him. And none could fail to see how faith wrought with his works—what fruit it brought forth in him. Firmly persuaded in his own mind, he was yet a man of liberal sympathies, in the best sense of the term. It was not enough for him merely to tolerate and leave room for those who differed from him. So far as he and they were of one he sought to be in fellowship with them. The spirit of mere denominationalism, which is so ready to discover, maintain, and magnify grounds of separation, was, in fact, unintelligible to him. He was unable to comprehend its demands and workings. Making for peace, incapable of doing otherwise, he took little account of, heard as though he heard not—the sounds of strife and discord. But this was not the only, or by any means the most significant manner in which proof was given of the kindly and generous spirit animating him. Such proof was more abundantly, and, perhaps, more profitably, furnished in his constant and ungrudging efforts to benefit others—to succour the distressed, to raise the fallen—to make straight paths for those who were setting out on the journey of life—to minister to the comfort and succour of the aged. It may with truth be said that, in love and loyalty to Christ, he made himself, and delighted to be, a “servant unto all.” He was ready

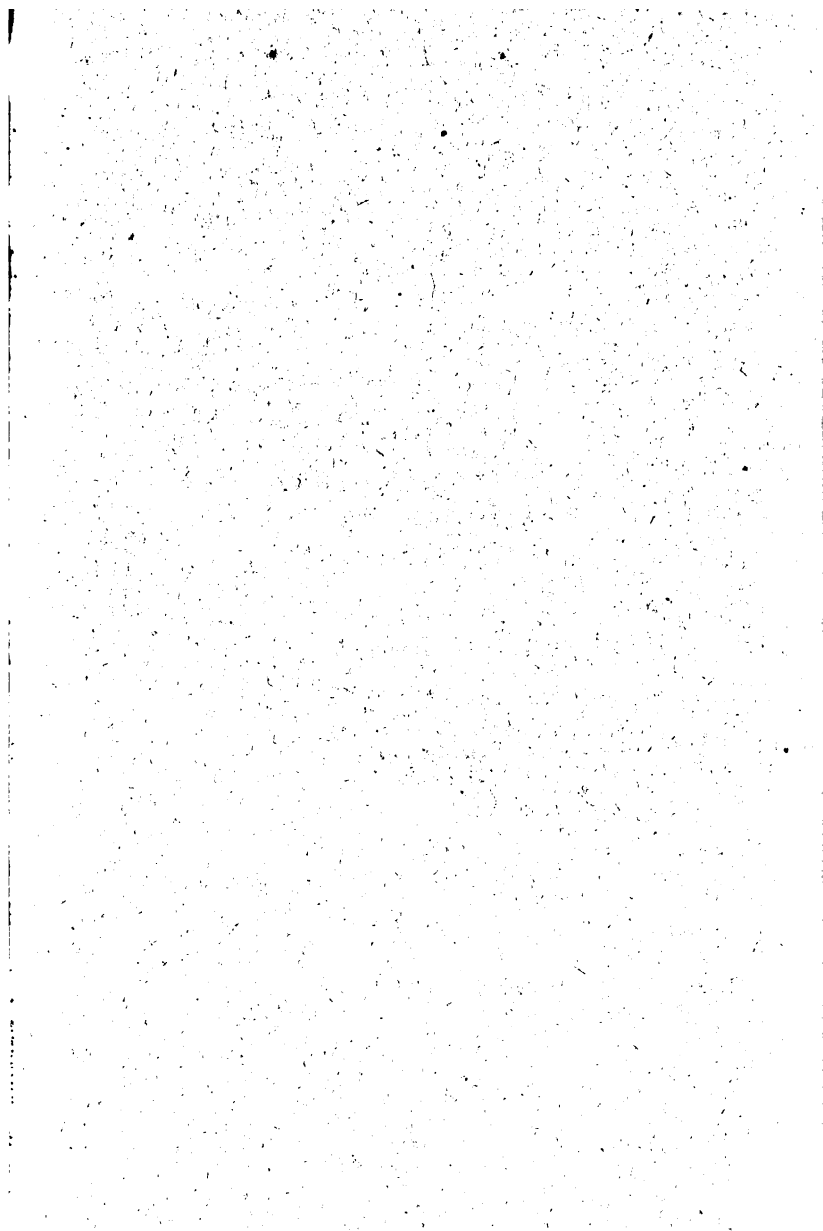
unto every good work, helpful in every worthy cause. No request for such help—whatever the sacrifice of strength, or thought, or time it might involve—was refused, if he could possibly meet it. “To his power, yea, and beyond his power”—when, as it occurred to us, he seemed rather to stand in need of a little leisure and respite—“he was willing.” It was a positive grief and pain to him if circumstances prevented his taking part in the benevolent scheme, or friendly meeting, in whose behalf his aid had been solicited. And it was solicited so often! For his presence was always welcome—never failing to bring joy along with it; while his words were sure to be those of instruction, animation, and encouragement. We do not attempt to enumerate the various ways in which his care and consideration for others, and his lively interest in whatever gave promise of benefiting them, were manifested. But it may be mentioned—this in particular had been shown throughout and in some of his latest acts—that he rejoiced to aid in advancing the social and intellectual improvement of young men. Nothing pleased him more than to find that those looking forward to, or beginning to take part in the active work of life, were wishful to employ to good purpose the hours often, but too freely, given to mere recreation or amusement. He was no foe of innocent enjoyment, but it pained him to see many consuming, in what might be mistakenly called such enjoyment, a large amount of their valuable spare time. His meetings with the children of the Sabbath, Public, and Industrial Schools, were invariably of the most happy description. He had been, from the beginning of their history, the steadfast advocate and supporter of the Industrial Schools. He rejoiced in the means of instruction and advancement which they placed within the reach of the friendless and uncared for. Notwithstanding the manifold duties and labours devolving on him, he was always—what old or active men often fail to be—in sympathy

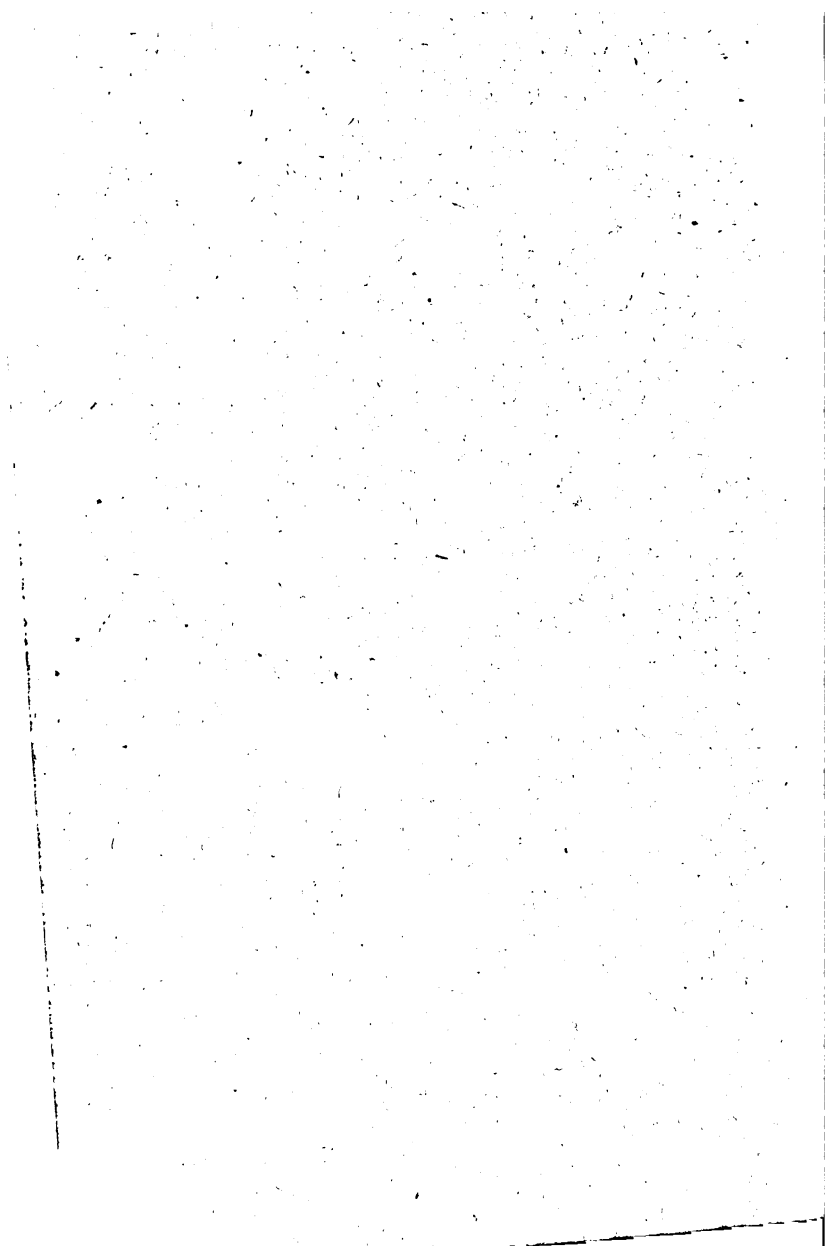
with the young, the children, wheresoever they were, gathered round him. His voice, beyond that of any other, had a charm and cheer for them. They felt that out of the abundance of the heart he spoke to them, with understanding of their thoughts and ways. Much that he said on these occasions has doubtless been treasured up and kept in remembrance by those who listened to him, and has proved, and will continue to prove, to them a source of guidance and strength amid the earthly trials and temptations. Such words are not let fall to the ground. And equally happy and skilful he was in addressing the aged poor, whose lonely and necessitous condition engaged so much of his thought and care. When they saw and heard him they gave witness unto him. It was, in some respects, as if they had returned to the days of their youth. He communicated to them of his own abiding freshness and holy expectation. Under the influence of his words and presence light came back to weary eyes, and hope to dull and desolate hearts. After all that had passed and gone—all the hard experience of sorrow, strait, and pain—all the sorrowful changes that time had brought and wrought—it was still possible to look forward to a new and better world—to feel that there was in heaven a better and an enduring substance. Such was the man—such his works and ways. And he was the same throughout. If I may venture a single remark on the subject—a remark warranted by what it has been my privilege to see and know—he was the same in private as in public; at his *best* even—as a good man is, or ought to be—in his own home. The same brightness and cheerfulness; the same kindly thoughtfulness; the same happiness in seeing others happy. But of these things we may not speak more particularly. Being of such a spirit, abounding in good works and spared to see the years he had seen, he had come to fill a place all his own, and was present with us far more than we knew. We could not

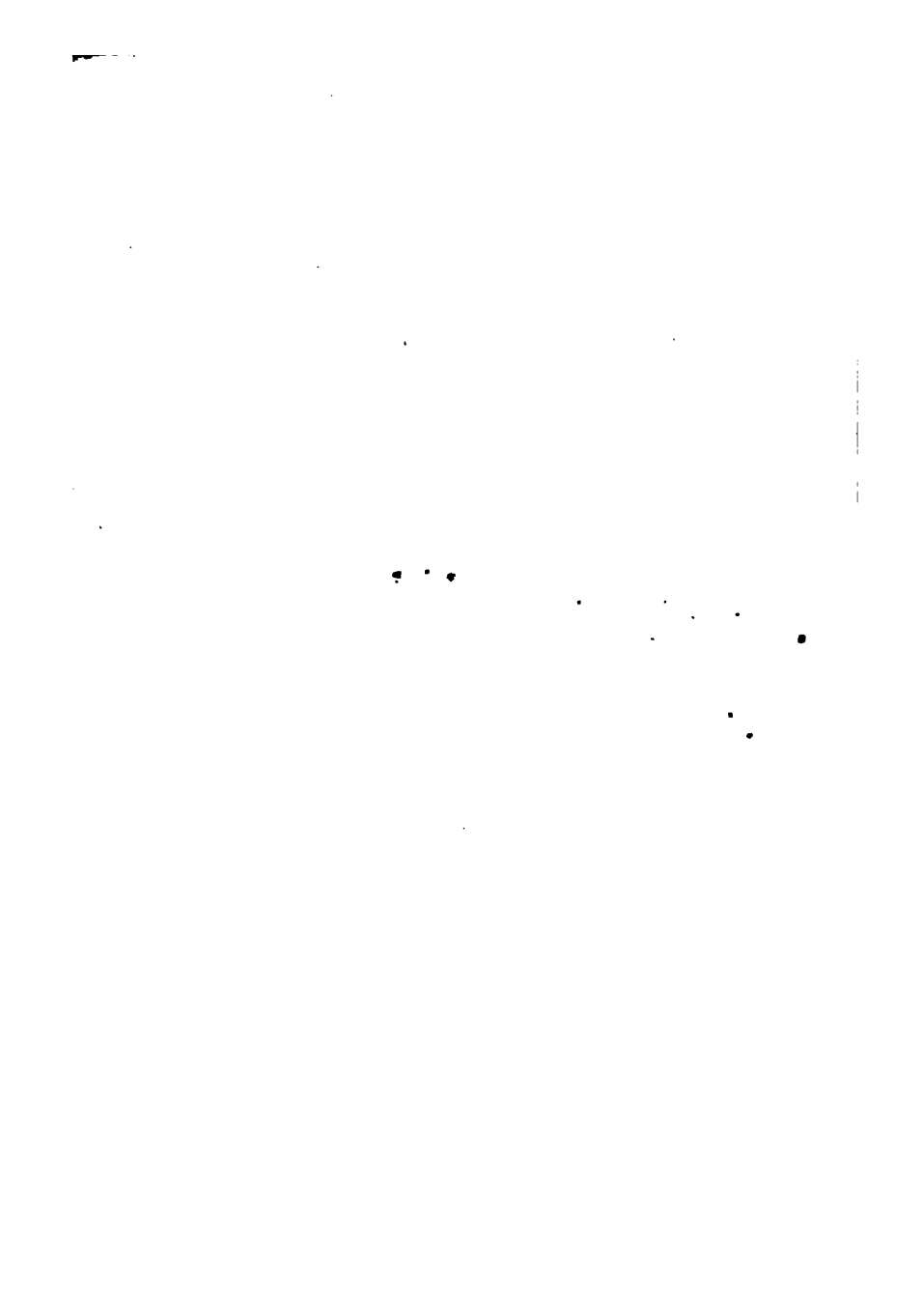
bear to think of his being taken from us. If we observed—as we could hardly fail to do—the bodily frame giving signs of the weariness and wear of age ; or if, very rarely and for a moment, the keen and nimble intellect appeared to be less clear and active than it had been wont, we indulged the expectation that, freed from the arduous duties and responsibilities of office, he might continue with us—at least for a little while. It almost seemed as if the expectation was not in vain. After the serious and trying illness through which he had passed a few months ago, he appeared to have regained his former vigour and buoyancy. He had engaged, as with increased relish, in many of his services of beneficence. In them, and in other ways, he found constant occupation. For he could never be idle—never let time drift past unemployed. In the last communication which I received from him, and which was written on the very day he was overtaken by his last illness, he speaks in grateful terms of the long life that had been granted to him, and of work that he still had in view. Alas for us all ! The life was rapidly approaching its close. What he had found, and been enabled to do, was done. And the end, if it came somewhat suddenly—as the end often does—came quietly, unaccompanied by sore struggle or pain. Those who watched by him—it was a comfort to them, even in their deep distress—saw him peacefully pass away. The loss to them—especially to her so long his partner in life—is, indeed, irreparable ; their sorrow—widely and sincerely as it is shared by others—such as can be soothed only by the everlasting consolation. May that consolation be abundant toward them. And let it be felt by us all, even in presence of that mystery from which death is never free, that God has yet dealt well with His servant, who had been enabled to furnish such an example of the power of a living faith—of diligence, of kindness, and active goodness—and who, full of days, has now

been laid in the grave, "in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ."

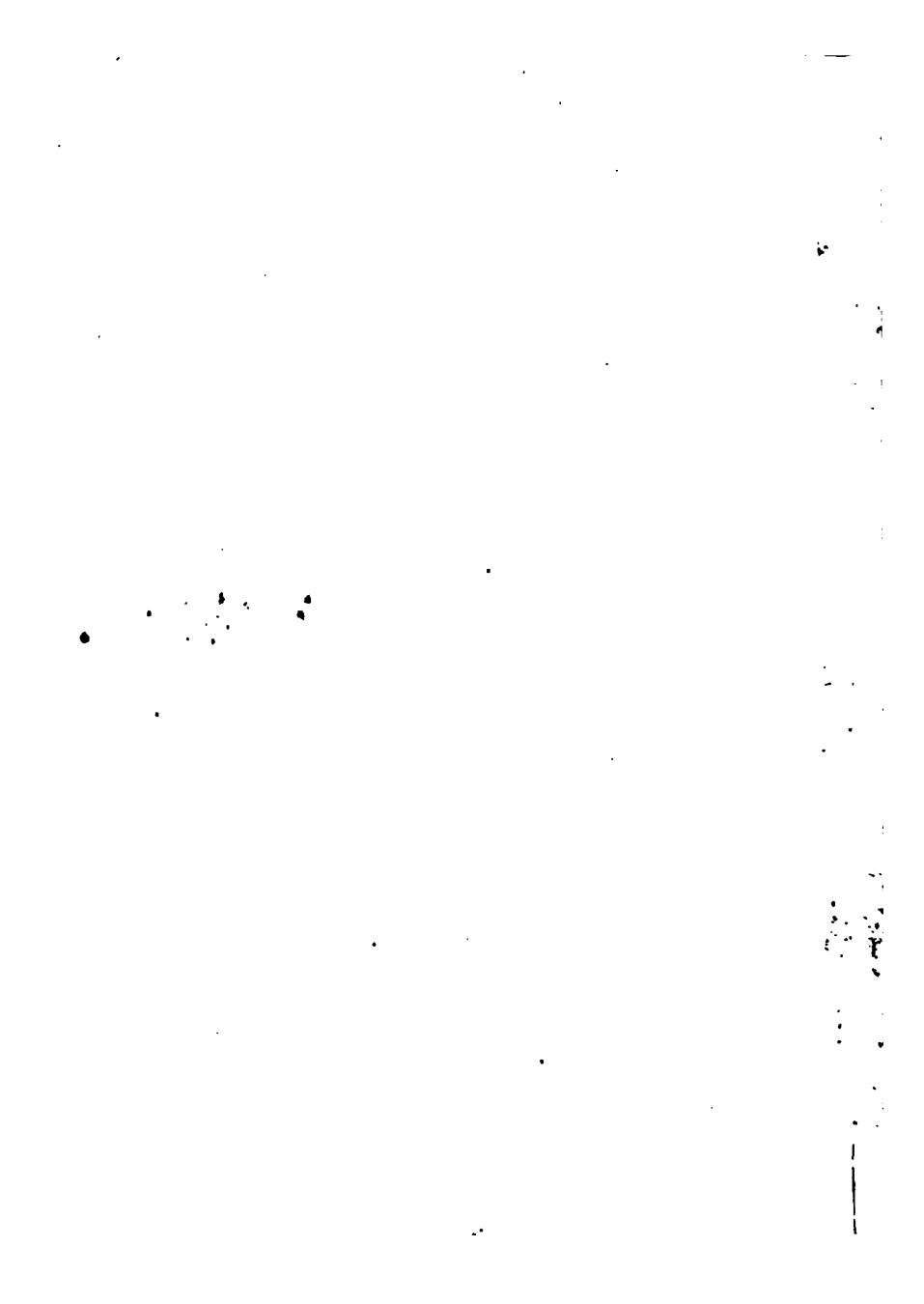
"Sleep, sweetly tender heart, in peace ;  
Sleep, holy spirit, blessed soul—  
While the stars burn, the moons increase,  
And the great ages onward roll—  
Sleep, till the end : true soul, and sweet.  
' There remaineth a rest to the people of God.'"











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